

DECLARATION

of

Donato Oliva,

President of

CONSTITUTIONAL

THANKS

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PALMERS

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The Epistle to the Reader.

Here is no doubt but among those who shall peruse this History, some there are that will esteem it worthy a more advantageous title than that of Letters, as well in regard of those things therein frequently handled, as in respect of the exactness of the Discourse whereto it is composed, which sufficiently commends it self and the ability of the Author, whose works (whereof this is but a part) can hardly be paralleld by any for the gracefulness of discourse, or the sublimity of conceits.

Here are no long and tedious Apologies, but at the first dash you will find matter of substance & delight; the Reasons goe altogether along without assistance, and their ornament allowed them with freedom of conceptions, the fecundity of language; and yet that is not passed promiscuously.

But as concerning the severall subjects whereon this History is grounded, they are sufficient to draw and allure the inclination of the mind, and the scope of the matter equally incident and naturally delightfull to all sorts of people of both sexes; and it were an error to

Imagine, there are some things so particular to the one, that the other cannot touch upon the same without some injury thereunto; briefly, whatsoever may fall into discourse, and under reason, are the objects the Author aims at.

All the wisdom of the Pagans is contained in these Epistles and Orations of Seneca; and we are beholding to the Author of this History for the very Quintessence of Romanity; wherein wee shall yet stand amazed at the perfection of those things here treated on; and to say that any hath joyned Art to abundance, and mingled mildness with Majesty, or hath raised his stile, without either losing himself, or straying from his subject, that is it which in truth we find no where better performed then in this History. And if any little defect be found herein which hath happened the Presse, I hold they ought to be borne with (they being but literals) in regard the matter it self is full of variety.

It is altogether impertinent to insist further in the praise and commendations of this worke, but I shall leave it to all those that are delighted, and desire to edify themselves by History, first to read, and then to judge; and in so doing, I doubt not but when they have weighed the matter and the phrase in the ballance of their owne reason; they will acknowledge that it is both pleasing and profitable, and if in this kind it find the like virility in these times as it hath done heretofore, then hath he his desire, who is

Thine, &c.

THE
HISTORY
OF
PALMENDOS:

Son to the famous *Palmarin d'Oliua*, Emperour
of Constantinople, and the Queen of Tharsus, Discouraging
likewise of the Prince *Risavans*, Son to *Trium* Em-
perour of Almain, and *Aureolinda* sister to the
Soldan of Persia, &c.

CHAP. I.

How *Belcar* and *Tyrindos* being in the Court of the Em-
perour *Palmarin*, received their Order of Knighthood;
and how *Belcar* departed secretly from Constantinople:
And of the Combat he fought in the Realme of Macedon
against the three Sons of a Knight that lodged him.



Soztly after the destruction of the
magnificent Monarchy of the Ro-
mans, was erected a new Empire in
Greece, which the incomprehensible
bounty divine favoured with conti-
nual happiness, placing the good
Prince *Prince d'Oliua* in the Crown
and lawfull Government thereof;
as wel in respect of his great proesse, high and knightly
paradoyes, which with vigilant care he used for the defence
of such an estate, the only renowne whereof brake the de-
signes of many, that by hostillity sought to disquiet him;
as also in regard of the notable lineage and posterity dissem-
bling

ding from him, of whose vertues and heroical perfections, present History of Palmedos his son is contrived, & there fore to be placed at the end of his Fathers travels. In which discourse being extant, (gentle Readers) you have understood how the Emperour Palmerio so loved and honoured his son, that from the furthest parts of the world they came to his Court, because yearly he continued a sumptuous spectacle in form of a Tournament for the exercise of valiantly and military discipline: And with such religious zeal was this worthy practise followed, that the Court might well be called the School of Arms, and Nurce of chivalry, for this cause, many Kings, Princes, & great Lords, sent their Sons to be there educated among whom the good Knight Frysol King of Hungaria sent one of his, named Belcar, and the Duke Eustace of Meccaa another, called Tircendos, that they might deserve their Knighthood at the hands of the Emperour, the true mistro and Idea of Spanish, and so consequently they to participate some part of his humanity and promise.

The time then being come that Belcar son to King Frysol should receive his order of Knighthood, he humbly intreated the Emperour that he might enjoy it at his hand; and Tircendos son to Duke Eustace of Meccaa, desirous of the selfe same honour, made the like request unto his Father: Whereunto the good Emperour (who loved them both with singular affection, knowing how well Chivalry would be employed by them) right willingly considered.

Whereupon, after they had performed the accustomed vigil, he knighted these two Princes with great solemnity, desiring God to bestow such favour on them as at no time they might degenerate from their famous predecessors. And so Belcar, embracing him in his arms, he said, My good Nephew, heaven accomplish in you such perfections of manhood, as each one may know you to be the son of the worthy Knight Sir Frysol, a Prince so happy and valiant, as any that ever followed Arms. The ceremonies being ended, they all returned to the Pallace, where the new Knights

The famous History of *Palmerin de Oliva*.

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Knights being married, such I shal also find here
 from of them for the greater honour of the Court, which in
 the Court at this time needed. But Becar had little
 pleasure in beholding the others occurrences at the Court
 ly, because his mind was more busied with the thought of
 future glory, which made him thus to converse with himself.
 Helear then had no longer time to rest, seeing thou
 hast received the honourable order of chivalry, and
 that at the hands of the Emperour, thine Uncle, whom
 the divine providence hath incited with so many laudable
 vertues; nor doth any thing want in the King thy father,
 that is required in a man at armes. If thou hast to do
 hast thou in pleasures and delights, therefore thou must
 bequeth thy self to travell, to shew that thou art re-
 semblable in some things thy Ancestors, who with great
 labour have attained such fame and renowne, as the me-
 mory thereof shall remain immortal. And if thou wilt
 not darken this honour, then must thou hasten thy separa-
 ture from the Court, and follow the search of strange
 adventures, as they did in their dayes for thine example.
 After many and sundry thoughts that sought together
 within his spirit, he concluded to depart accompanied but
 with one squire, and that so secretly as could be devised.
 Thence forth he marcht directly towards Macedon,
 to make the first proof of his valour in the adventure of
 Franceline, who was enchanted in the Isle of Calabris, as
 was declared in the history of *Palmerin de Oliva*. And at
 this time was little talk of any other thing, then of the
 number of knights that daily sought to win her in mar-
 riage, and wish her the Kingdome of Thessaly; for such
 was the promised reward and recompence, to him that
 could deliver her out of the enchanted Castle, but pitifully
 to all the knights lost their labour, for none was able to
 finish the adventure. Becar being earnestly provoked
 with the fame of his occasion, which was generally repu-
 ted strange and full of danger, resolved to frame his jour-
 ney thither, because he earnestly desired to bring the in-

chantment to end : his reason herein not to be disallowed, for beyond the attainment of great honour and praise he thought he ended both to fall a Prisoner, as could not be made inferiour to any. In this surpassing desire contraries from any one but himself, in regard of his perfect hope to compass the same : three dayes he honoured the feast with his presence, and the fourth day early in the morning putting on a rusty Greek armour, which for this purpose hee had secretly provided, carrying likewise in his shield for his device, a Castle Gates in a field Argent unlesn of any, he left the city, riding toward the realme of Maecdon.

The Emperour soon after understanding hereof, was not a little glad of his worthy enterprise, which he witnessed in the presence of all his Lords and Barons saying, So help me God, as my opinion and hope is persuaded that Belcar will so honourably follow arms as each of you will rejoyce to hear the discourse of his fortunes : heaven further and favour his attempts, directing all his actions in such sort, as no tongue may controule his noble forwardnesse. Belcars departure was liked of every one, except Tiredos who was thereat marvellously offended, because he had not acquainted him with his intent, for gladly would he have boznd him company, and therefore he determined never to give over travell till he found him, as it came to passe very soon after. In mean while, Belcar made such speed in his journey, as without meeting any adventure to hinder him, in short time he attained the limits and confines of the Empire : and entering the frontiers of Maecdon that night he was lodged in the Castle of an old courteous Knight, who sitting at his gate and seeing Belcar passe by in the evening, somewhat late, intreated him for that night to let him be his Host, which he not willing to refuse, was well content to except his offer. After that Belcar was unarmed, the old Knight to see if liked his habite constitution of body, his affable qualities, and modest speeches, as he had great pleasure to sit
and

and talk with him, and falling from one circumstance to another, the good old Knight perceived in the end, that his guest was one in great favour with the Emperor Palmerin.

Palm must I let you understand, that this courteous old Knight had three sons, by nature proud and rebellious, envying the liberal hospitality which their father used to travelling strangers; wherefore the good old man, too well acquainted with their malicious behaviour, took them aside to admonish them that they should use no frowning or discountenance to his guest. Know my sons, quoth he, that this night we have in our house one of the Emperors Knights whose countenance both witnesseth that he is of high descent: I pray you therefore do him all the honour you may, entertaining him with cheerful and hearty good will, not using any speeches, nor such as are modest & meet for Gentlemen. They answered that they would fulfil his commandment; yet soon after was no longer gone, but they concluded altogether on the morrow to assault Belcar at the entrance of a Forest, which was not far distant from the Castle, to try if he were such a man as their father commended him to be: and being thus resolved, they would not be seen at supper, but early in the morning clasping on their Armour, they rode to the place of their appointment. The reverend father seeing the ingratitude and disobedience of his sons, on all the honour he possibly could to Belcar: who requesting his gentle leave with many thanks in the morning set to work on his journey: And scarcely had he ridden two leagues but he met the three brethren under a wood tree, when the eldest of them came to him with these speeches, Sir Knight you must of necessity quit with me, otherwise your passage may not be permitted, for now is our orders to make proof upon be so valiant as men so brave are. Belcar who stood in doubt of a greater ambush, took his leave from his Sons, and in very courteous manner took his leave. You may be assured, Sir Knight, to what end

Gentleman belonging to the Emperour in this sort, and
 thought you may deal with us as you will. Who shall give you
 leave to come to us down and repent yet. I would not
 you should with such imaginations (query another of the
 brethren, but prepare yourself to try the event. At which
 words they setche their career, and encountered together
 with such vigour, as their Lances flew in shivers up into
 the ayre. Belcar being thus mowed in his side, where ro-
 marionne he gave his enemy such a pull and stroke with
 the counterbuste of his staffe, as it was too late for him to
 call for a Thyrurgian. When the other two brethren saw
 this stroke, and being perswaded that their elder Bro-
 ther was wounded to the death, provoked with extreme
 rage and indignation, they came to Belcar with these words.

In an evil hour (knight) diddest thou give that blow,
 because thy death shall recompence the same. So they ran
 both together freely against him, the one falling in the
 wrestling, and the others say to god, as he gave Belcar a
 small wound in the same; yet being of resolute courage,
 he buckled with them to close, as one of them he sent to
 keep company with his eldest brother, and the other he
 brought into such extremity that he fell from his horse de-
 prived of his senses. The Dogges that came with these
 three brethren, seeing the bad fortune of his Masters sons,
 ran presently back to the Castle, and finding the aged
 Roderick in his chamber, thus began.

Alas my Lord, in an unhappy hour did you entertain
 the knight that lodged here last night. Who (as it seems)
 came only to kill your sons. So belabored he the whole
 discourse of the fight, which provoked the sad father to
 shed forth abundance of tears; yet did he especially con-
 sider his sons, whose pride and arrogance had thus caused
 their own death. His servants understanding the cause
 of his weeping, went presently to the place where the de-
 ath had been committed, and there they found two of them
 deprived of life. The third likewise in very great danger,
 albeit to my provision were made to prevent it. So ran-

sing him to be layd in a Coffin, and the other two on a
 bier, and they thus brought him to their fathers
 Chancel, where they lay in other Coffins with many full
 efful of teares and lamentations, as the women hade feared
 her altogether void of sense and affection, then any way
 per taker of humane wit or reason. This sorrow was made
 by one of her daughters, who loved him very dearly,
 and after she has somewhat pacified her fire, she made a so-
 lenne vow to her mother, never to take rest in her mind and
 thought, until she were assured by it benighted by the murder-
 ers. Wherefore when her two dead brethren were buried, she
 departed against her fathers will, and on panted onely with two
 Squires to seek Belcar; intending to be venged on him by
 one means or other.

CHAP. II.

How Belcar came to knowne into *Madrid*, where he staid
 away the prize of Journey which King *Florendos* had ap-
 pointed, to honour the Marriage of the Princess *Demisa*,
 and how he discovered himself to *Aldemara*, Daughter to the
 Duke of *Ponius* and *Durace*.



Belcar riding in great haste toward *Caceres*,
 finding the heat of day very troublesome,
 he alighted at a faire Spring to refresh
 himselfe a while, where long he had not
 stayed, but in a path leading onely to the
 same place he beheld a company of Archers
 and Ladies coming, attended on with a very sumptuous train. It
 was the Duke of *Ponius* and *Durace*, who rode to marriage to
 the Princess which the King *Florendos* had made. Between his
 daughter *Demisa* and the King of *France*, by promise to the wife
 of *Canisio*. This Duke had his equipped Lady *Laurana* with
 him, as also one of his fair daughters named *Aldemara* who
 rode foremost in the troop beholding the Duke in talk with her
 father, yet intending to say in the heat was past, and in the

mean while to solace her self at the Fountain. There she arriv-
 ed before Belcar had put on his Helmet, so that she behol-
 ding his amiable countenance, his rich armour, and yet having
 no company but one Squire: as a Lady wife and well gover-
 ned, she saluted him very graciously, whereat Belcar was some-
 what amazed, doubting she knew of whence and what he
 was. But soon did he alter that opinion, and rather thinking
 this kinde to proceed of noble courtly, imagined her of
 high calling, for which cause he made her humble reverence,
 and seeing how many followed his Lady, among whom he
 might peradventure be known, he called for his horse minding
 to ride a contrary way. Alderins heart somewhat moved be-
 cause she desired to know of whence he was, thus speak, Sir
 Knight, abide here hardly at your ease, and for our coming
 do not forsake a place so sweet and delectable: you see the heat
 of the day is such, as scantily will permit you to travell. If
 you go to adventure your fortune in the Tourney at Macedon
 you may ride with the Duke my father who will be very glad
 of your company, and much more my self, because my god hap
 was first to find you here. Belcar humbly thanking her for
 this courtesie made an excuse, that he could not go to Macedon
 because he had urgent affairs elsewhere: and whither he must
 travell with all speed: wherefore taking his leave again of her
 he rode which way liked him best, onely to escape unknown
 of this company. And meeting a Squire, that came after the
 train with the carriage, he demanded if he knew the Lord
 that came so well accompanied, to whom the squire answer-
 ed that it was the Duke of Pocus, who rode to Macedon to
 the feast of the King Florendos for the marriage of his daugh-
 ter Deuile, and that the Duke had his fair daughter Alderina
 with him, to see the Tournaments and Tournament which was now
 prepared. So soon as Belcar heard these words, he presently
 conceived that the Lady which came first to the Fountain
 was the Dukes daughter, of whose report had made great
 commotion. Whereupon determined to go for this assembly,
 in the most secret manner as he could devise: for he had time
 enough to accomplish his voyage. He took not the way to the

His of Carceria, framing his journey toward Macedon, and coming near the City, he overtooke two knights that rode to the City, they having reciprocally saluted each other, the two knights demanded of Belcar if he came to Town, I come to see (quoth he) what men at Arms will enter the field at this time of brave exercise. Then let us ride together if you please, (said they) for we left our countries for the self same cause. Thus rode they on friendly together, and arriving at Macedon, they found the field all covered with tents, which belonged to y noble personages that were come to the feast. For this cause the two knights gave in charge to their Squires, to provide their habitation, which was purposely brought with them, intreating Belcar likewise to keepe them company: whereto (because he would not enter the City) he gladly consented, thinking he should hardly find lodging. On the morrow there arrived the Duke of Pontus, before whom rode the King Floridos as one willing to welcome his new kindred: but Alderna shewed such spaisely countenance, as every eye wondered at her rare perfection, notwithstanding she was somewhat sad and pensive, the cause proceeding from her desire, to know the knight she saw at the fountain, whom yet she could not by any means forget. When Belcar beheld her arm in arm with the King of Thracia, and in what costly garments she was attired, he imagined her more fair, then when he saw her at the fountain, so that he resolutely intended if he could not finish the adventure of Franceлина, to give himself to travell, and to enterpraise such attempts as might be thought worthy the love of this Lady. All this while the Qu. Giana, wife to the King Florendos, very honourably entertained the Dutchess Laurana and the young princess Denisa accompanying Alderna would not forsake her till the marriage night. On the morrow following the King the Queen, and the new married couple, came into the field to behold the Tourney where they were no sooner mounted on the scaffold which were sumptuously adorned as becometh so great personages: but both on the one side and the other they might behold great host of armed knights, chiefly they that came from the

The case of the Champion, who because he could not be present
 at his own man's age, sent many of his bold Barons to honour
 his absence. He was by exploits in feats of arms there per-
 forming, surpassed them of greatest reputation, and among o-
 thers, the Duke of Anomon and Meas to will beheld them:
 and as they had well near gained honour of the first assault,
 Belles was suddenly arrived, who stayed while he be-
 hold the order of the fight, intending to help the weaker part.
 When at length he said to his companions: follow me my
 fellows to assist the vanquished. So giving his horse the spurs
 he ran fiercely with his sword drawn, against Belles in the
 front of the fight: who did the greatest harm to the other: as
 with him he met so bravely in his career, as both among men
 went both to the ground. Afterward, he dealt so roughly
 with all them that durst meet him in the face, as in a short
 time courage began to retire in those knights, who (in the
 judgment of all the beholders were before esteemed vanquish-
 ed). Which the Duke of Anomon perceiving, and his com-
 pany to grow into such disgrace, he was thereat exceedingly
 offended, and thinking himself among the thickest, gave Bel-
 les a very great stroke with his sword on the helmet: so
 that he received speedy repentment, for Belles, falling back-
 ward, in his fall, wearing the Duke such a blow in the
 through of the vizor of his helmet, as he fell to the ground afflic-
 ted both his horse legs. When breaking in amidst the press,
 he gave such sharp entertainment to all that met him as
 the King Florendos, and the other great estates that accom-
 panyed him, were belied thereby into great admiration: nor
 was he known to any there but the Princess Alderina, who
 being seated in the right hand of the Queen Demas, could not
 for other worth fight, but this spoke. What think you (Prin-
 cess) of this knight in such armour? What doe I think:
 and what the Duke, truly he did say for the man who might
 requite a dragon himself: for him, for that he alone had done
 more hurt to us, than all the other: and greatly would it
 content us to know if he descended of noble blood as he
 hath been, and testimony of his knoledge in feats of arms.

Adam, (quoth Alderina) I cannot think him lesse then you doubt of, in respect he concealeth himself so closely, and would not willingly be known of any. Herewith he recommended, how he found him at the Fountain, bare headed without his helmet: and this I can assure you (quoth she) that as you confesse him vallant in Arms, so can I witnes him of such brave feature and complexion, as there is no one absolute point wanting in him. Your speeches said the Queen, makes me much more desirous to know him, wherefore I will send one to him for the same purpose. When I beseech your Majesty answered Alderina, to send one of my Pages, who shal attend for him till the end of the Tourney, and then conjure him in your name that he send you word of whence and what he is: and if he stand loth to be known, to resolue him from your Majesty, and me, that no living creature shall betray him by our means. Your counsel I very well allow, said the new married Queen, but I would that this Embassage should rather go from you, because he remembering what knowlege you had of him at the Fountain, will happily manifest himself unto you rather then any other. Whereupon Alderina called one of her pages Graecian artificially instructing him in his errand to the green Knight: that using instant intreaty, accompanied with a singular desire, he should gain the mean to returne with his name and parentage. All this while Belcar shewed such rare deeds of Chivalry, as having well laboured the adversary, and none left that would confront him: he went as Conquerour forth of the Lists, where he met the two Knights that came with him hither, who stayed more desirous to note his behaviour in his fight then to intrude themselves in place of such danger, and being not a little glad of the honor he had done them in that their companion bare away the palm of victory, they rode on each side of him towards their Tent, being followed all the way by the Princesses Page, who awaiting due time to deliver his message, toke Belcars horse by the bridle, and using such means of secret conference, as Belcar stopped to hear him, he softly thus whispered with him, Sir Knight I would it might like you to ride some little, that I might deliver a

matter of secrecie to you. He who was so courteous and affable as any man could be, presently left his two companions, when Gracian thus began his message.

My Lord Alderina daughter to the Duke of Pontus and Durace, hath at this time sent me to you, to let you understand, that she hath received just cause of offence towards you in that she comming to see this Tourney, you disdained to make offer of your company: Notwithstanding if you will grant one request that she makes by me, forgetting all passed ungentleness, she will gladly leave further to misdeem of you. My friend answer Belcar, the thing must be very difficult or impossible, that I would not enterprize to obtain the gracious pardon of so chaste a Lady as is thy Mistress: it may be that I have trespassed in duty towards her excellency, but in sooth meer ignorance of her estate was the onely cause. And when I left her at the Fountain, far was my intent from coming to this Tourney, in so much as I was thereto (in a manner) constrained, notwithstanding excuses of as great importance as those I used to thy gentle Lady.

It resteth now (quoth the Page) that you grant my Mistress her earnest desire, which is, to know what you are and why you conceal your self in such sort: For beholding your noble and valiant behaviour, she sets you beyond all other in her conceit, and promiseth withal under the word of so great a person as she is, not to reveal it to any, if you be willing it could be so. Highly may I commend my fortune (saith Belcar) what a Princess so gentle, and perfect, would deign to enquire after my poor deserts: and though I had vowed to conceal my self from the whole world, yet would I straine courtlesse with that vow for her sake. Say to her therefore, courteous page that my name is Belcar, Nephew to the Emperour of Constantinople; and the cause why I would not willingly be known to any, is this small portion of time since I received my knighthood: And having not yet done any thing worthy my name, or to be accounted among the actions of honour, I determined not to publish the same, till I might do it with good testimony. Thou mayest also assure her from me, that

hence.

henceforth I shall serue as her deuoted Knight, hoping vnder fauour of her name to gain such account, as both I and mine shall remain perpetually bound to her excellency. And when I haue accomplished any thing, that may be reputed worthy honorable commendation, I will come my self, and offer there-withal to her my heart, which hath receiued such an impression of obedience to her, as henceforth it will attempt nothing but in her sweet regard: proof may she make hereof in commanding me; for such is my desire to be employed in her service, as were I assured my death consisted in the attempt, yet could not any fear thereof withhold me. Let me further intreat her, not to disclose my name to any one, because at this time I will not visit the King *Florendos*, & the Queen, notwithstanding I am so near allied unto them. With this answer returned *Gracion* to his Lady, who attended his coming in great deuotion, so that he was no sooner entred the chamber, but she demanded the successe of his message. All well *Adam* answered the Page, but you must keep it very secret, because the Knight himself hath so desired. Which after she had faithfully promised to do, he told her, that the Knight was *Belcar* Son to the King of *Hungaria*. May it be so? quoth the Queen *Demis*, then is my Nephew; and thinks he scorn to be known to us; might gladly would I haue seen him, for from our infancie we were nourished together: And well may you assure your self *Adam Alderina*, that he hath been euer more benign and courteous, which makes me not reioyce a little, that his fortune in Arms is equal with his other vertue; yet seeing he desires to passe unknown, let us keep the same so secret as we may. It were needlesse to demand if *Alderina* were pleased, when she heard that *Belcar* was issued of so great illustrious blood, offering himself to that so religiously her Knight: wherefore now she began extreemly to affect him and implanted the remembrance of him so lively in her spirit, as nothing might deface it again. Thus hourly ranged *Lobes* passions in her heart, wherein they took immediate amaine so soon as she beheld him at the Fountaine.

CHAP. III.

How *Belcar* fearing to be known, departed secretly from *Alacena*, and by the way met with a Knight whom he vanquished: And how he fought a cruell Combat with him that defended the Bridge, where the faire *Frangelina* was enchanted.



Some as *Belcar* had ended with *Alderina's* Squire, he minded to depart presently, fearing lest the King *Florendos* would send for him, as indeed he did some after: for he greatly desired to know the Knight that bare away the honour of the Tourney. But his expectation was greatly deceived, in that *Belcar* was already departed, whereof the King could not be perswaded, but that he missed his presence in the Triumph following, which he compared to the pastime of little *Chilizen*, in respect of the former day, when the unknown Knight performed matter of incredible valour. And albeit the Queen *Denise*, and the Princess *Alderina*, heard every judgement passing on the Knight, yet would they yeeld no other answer, but that he seemed to be one of the best esteemed Knights in the Emperours Court. *Belcar* then having graciously thanked his two companions for the courtesie and humanity they had used towards him, took his friendly farewell of them, resigning an earnest constraint, which commanded his presence in matters of importance. The Knights loth to lose to good a friend made offer to goe with him in his travell; but he excused their request with a necessary denyall wherewith they were pleased, and he had liberty to depart.

And riding along the way where he met *Alderina*, he happened into a fair green meadow where (because n. lodging was near at hand) he determined to make his halting that night: But as he thought to enter into a sound sleape a sudden imagination caught hold on his senses, presenting them with

with the rare beauty of Alderina, during which passion, he was constrained thus to part with himself. In sooth, Belcar, right well mayest thou be charged with dishonour and ingratitude having made such tender vows of civility to so fair a Princess as is the Dukes daughter of Pontus; full well may it besem thee to amend this fault, and by the dutifull repentance setting a night, to cover the nose of thy former bluntness. After many amorous like courses, he concluded (if he could finish the adventure of Francelina) to make choice of this Lady onely as his wife; and in these imaginattons a sweet slumber overtooke him, wherein he continued till the next morning, when mounting on horsebacke, and riding not past the space of two miles, he met with a Knight at Arms, who demanded if he came from Macedon, and if the Ruptials of the Kings daughter were finished: Belcar answered, that they were now in performance if it liked him to travel thither, he should there find matter enough to be employed in. The Knight left Belcar to his journey and so without any further speeches they departed.

But if yett he desirous to know the man, it was Cardino, who departed from Constantinople with Colmelio, in search of the Damozel that brought such a sudden message to the Emperour Palmerin, as you may read in the last Chapter of his History. And albeit they had travelled many Countreys to find her, yet could they not heare any tidings of her, because she presently returned to the Castle of Carderina from whence the Fairies sent her to the Court on that occasion, the intent thereof being no other, but onely to extoll and commend the future promise of Palmendos, Son to the Queen of Tharsus and the Emperour Palmerin, and that the Knight who should come to finish the enchantment of Francelina might be received with greater honour and magnificence. Cardino had tried his fortune in this adventure, but he could find no better then others had done before him, wherefore hearing of the feast and open Court held at Macedon, he went as one doubtfull to come thort to the Triumphs, till Belcar had there of certainly retolded him. These Knights were not parted the space of a mile, but Cardino met the Damozel, who was

sister to the two brethren slain by Belcar in the wood she having followed him to the Court of the King Florendos, was advertised by a squire of his success in the touchy, and how he rode the common high way leading to Caderia, whereupon she made good hast after him, and met with Cardino soon after their departure, to whom she began in this manner.

I beseech ye Gentleman to resolve me certainly, if ye met a Knight in green Armour or no, the most traiterous and disloyal man that this day liveth: for my father having done him all the honour he could devise, while one night he came and lodged at his Castle, and on the morrow morning (the more to content him) commanded my three brethren to accompany him somewhat on the way; but he, a most inhumane and unthankfull wretch, without any occasion slew two of them, and put the third in great danger of his life. And in this just cause I pursue the villaine, in hope to meet with some worthy man who detesting such notorious and horrible ingratitude, will (in taking compassion on my grief) revenge this injury. So well could the traytrese colour her speeches, and set so faire a glosse on her cautelous perlopoey, as she imprinted in the heart of Cardino a dutifull regard to revenge such wrong wherefore he thus answered. Damosel, if it be so as you say, the Knight cannot excuse himself, but that he is both a Traytor and a Fellow, nor will the God of Heaven suffer him to scape unpunished in this world. The Damosel with terrible oathes protested what she had said, desiring him to give her aid if no other occasions might hinder her suit. Right gladly (quoth Cardino) will I perform my duty herein; for that I am a protested enemy to such offenders, and shall cause him to pay dearly for his treachery. So rode he with the Damosel after Belcar, but all that day they could not overtake him. On the morrow they got sight of him on the edge of a Mountain, wherewith the Damosel not a little contented, desired Cardino now to rouse his forces against the Tyrant that had so dishonored her. Cardino promising to accomplish her desire, gave the spurs to his horse, and galloped after Belcar, and in a great Brabado thus cried to him. Stay Traytor, unworthy the

the name of a knight, and receive thy guerdon at my hand, for slaughtering him that entertained thee with all humanity. Belcar hearing himself thus injured, was immediately provoked into choler, & turning towards him that touched him with disloyalty, he sternly answered. Little to thy profit will it be, to pursue me with such false & lying accusations, So clasping his helmet, he ran furiously against Cardino who met him with no lesse courage and bravity, and breaking his lance bravely somewhat scarred the skin of his enemy: but Belcar welcomed him with so sound a salutation, as he fell down with the saddle between his legs, so sore afforied with his fall as he was not able to stir hand nor foot, which Belcar perceiving, rode on and there left him. The Damosel seeing Cardino in such woeful plight, alighted from her paltrap, and with the help of his Squire binding up his wounds, determined to bring him to some place for help, using the greatest helms of lamentation that could be. Ah heaven (quoth she) why have ye strength to punish men against the good and virtuous: suffer not this disloyal villain to be any further danger, but rather gibe some miserable end to his unworthy life. By this time the Squire had mounted Cardino on his horse, and so they returned the same way they came, hapning to the place where Belcar had broken his fast the morning before. There they understood by their host, that he was gone to probe the adventure of Francelina; whither the Damosel would gladly have followed him: yet was she loth to leave Cardino in such danger, and therefore abode there with him three days using all the means she could to heale him, because that for her sake he was so wounded: where we will leave them, and return to the onely thread of our History.

So long rode Belcar, that he arrived within half a dayes journey of the Castle where Francelina was: This fastresse appertained to a Lady that was a Widow, who had two faire daughters, and a son already knighted, of no lesse valour in feats of Arms, then learned and well seen in divers other Disciplines. In this place was he marvellous well entertained, the Lady of the Castle being a woman of great honour.

and her daughters of very Courteous and civil behaviour. After supper, Belcar entred into conference with them, and among many other things, enquired the cause that induced so many knights to attempt the adventure of that Ile; when the Ladies son who was named Lypes, answers him in this sort. *Belcar* be assured, I have eber accounted the man but badly counsellor, that takes such pains to travel thither, seeing it is so long time since any knight arrived here, who returned not without dishonour; because the action and exploit of this enchantment (so wonderfully compacted by the three Fairies) is of such efficacy, as it behoves him that shall finish the same, to be of most rare and exquisite perfection.

But tell me then (saith Belcar) the state of this adventure, and wherein consisteth the greatest perill thereof; for as yet have I not met with any one that could tell me the truth to satisfie my long and earnest desire. *Better* than any other (answers Lypes) can I discourse the same unto you, because I have often accompanied knights travelling thither as you now do, and seen many Comers who have had besides the entrance on the bridge, albeit to their great disadvantage. Know then (gentle Sir) that the Ile of Cadenia stretcheth in diameter very far, being on the one side entailed with the sea, and on the other are most wholesome Bathes and rivers, which hinder the salt waters from coming near the Castle. At the foot whereof is builded a marvellous artificial bridge, heretofore accessible for all knights errant, but since the time that *Francelina* was inclosed within the great Dungeon, there might not enter any stranger; those of the Ile onely come and go, but others not. Upon this bridge are erected three Turrets, one of them being in the middle, and the other two at either end. In the first is a knight, surpassing the common stature and proportion of men, so fierce, hardy and courageous, as since the time of this enchantment, he hath not bene dealt withall by any one, that could in any notable way prove well onely the Lord of the Ile of Lique excepted; son to him whom the Emperor *Palmerius* banished when he conquered the Sagittary, being named *Lyndes*.

was so resolute and intemperate, as he fought against the
 knight of the bridge from morning till night; and though the
 combat was fierce and cruel, yet could no want of courage
 be discerned in him: who fell not out to with the guardant
 of the bridge, because the loss of his blood so weakened him,
 as his heart began utterly to faint. But an ill favoured
 Dwarf, who stood close from the Beacon of the first Turret,
 to discover such knights as come along the field, by winding
 an enchanted Horn that hung about his neck, therewith to
 rebid the knights to engage again, as if he had but even
 then entered the combat.

In this sort the fight continued till Sun setting, when Ly-
 nedes perceiving his enemy to wax feeble again, and that the
 Dwarf as yet blew not his Horn, brought the knight of the
 bridge into such extremity, that he fell upon his hands to the
 ground. When running swiftly over the bridge, he came to
 the Turret in the middle thereof, the gates whereof being o-
 pen before, clapt together, at his arrival with such a fearful
 trembling of the whole building, as Lynedes fell to the earth in
 a swoon. In this trance he remained a great while, so that his
 Squires fearing he was dead indeed, bemoaned their Master
 with very grievous lamentations: But when he came to
 his former feeling, they saw he was so cruelly wounded as
 they carried him to his tent, where three days he remained to re-
 obtain his health; and on the fourth, feeling himself able to sit
 on Horseback, and not willing to make any further part of
 his adventure, he departed thence sorrowing for his bad for-
 tune. And this I tell you for a certainty, that when the
 Dwarf sits as Centinel in the lantern of the first Tower,
 perceiving the knight of the bridge to have the word of the
 combat, he blows the sound of his Horn, which is his signal,
 which is the cause that no man is able to deal with him: be-
 ing then this enterprise being of such danger and oftentimes
 death without remedy, that verily no man would at-
 tempt his own ruin.

Don tell me whether or not he answered well, and what
 should were the parties in reading this and that.

should seem, that they have not enclosed the Lady there without great occasion, being assured, that some Knight shall end the adventure, to which each one travelleth with this courageous hope, that he is the man, for whom it is reserved. For can I be dissuaded from it, if many heretofore have fallen in that error, therefore no doubt of what shall happen shall hinder my determination; If I happen in my trial to be overcome, I shall but increase the number of them, that could not attain y^e height of their enterprize, & no other dishonour can I receive.

Lypes earnestly intreated him to forgoe the voyage, and so did his sisters likewise, into whose grace he was greatly entred, especially the youngest, faire and debonaire beyond the rest; but all their perswasions could not change him; for Belcar having travelled so far for that purpose, might not by any occasion whatsoever be withdrawn from making proof of his fortune. When Lypes saw him so obstinately inclined he made offer to bear him company, if it were but onely to shew him the way which friendly courtesie Belcar accepted; so on the morrow they mounted on horseback and came to the Isle, about mid-day. There was set up a rich Tent for this young Prince, which the sisters of Lypes had sent thither by three Squires, with all necessary provision for his attempt; and in the evening Belcar went to view the Isle, regarding the Tower wherein Fraocelina was imprisoned; invoking on God in his spirit, to endue him with such ability, as he might deliver her, and bear away the honour of the adventure.

These imaginations so busied his thoughts, as all that night he could entertaine no other, but oftentimes thus talked with himselfe. Ah Belcar, why shouldst thou thus delay time, rather courageously attempt the execution of this enterprize? Admit thou want force answerable to a matter of such dignity, yet should the reason and generosity of thine Ancestors stimulate thee heretofore being Don to one of the best knights that liveth this day under the Zodiacke, and nephew to the great Emperour, with whom none may be equall'd. In these and such like conceits he consumed the night, and in the morning (having armed himselfe) came to

the Bridge, where in a convenient place near the first Tower, he espied the Knight that defended the passage, whose huge stature somewhat amazed Belcar; and as he offered to step on the Bridge, the Knight very proudly thus spake, *Withdraw thy self Knight, unless thou wilt enter fight with me, for I am here to deny passage to any. For no other cause come I, answered Belcar, but to try thy manhood, and pass the Bridge if possibly I may.* With these words he gave the Knight such a sound stroke on the Helmet, that he thought the steel flished out of his eyes, and so they began along and dangerous combat, the Knight giving Belcar many cruel blows with his Iron mace, and he defending them so well as he could, till having somewhat wearied his enemy, and thinking to do as he heard of Lynceus, but the Knight gave him such a forcible stroke on the shoulder, as he was constrained to set one knee to the ground to escape the fall. Where with the Dwarf blew his Horn, which rejoiced them within the Castle: albeit the Prince was astonished hereat, yet he dismissed the same from being espied.

The Knight having recovered his former strength, assailed Belcar with marvellous fury, who notwithstanding held out courageously, and one thing comforted him above all other, which was, that none of his adversaries blows gave him any bleeding wound, but bruised his flesh a little under his Armour, whereby he fought at his own pleasure. Three times the Dwarf blew to animate his Champion, by which means Belcar was much overlaboured, because he could find no opportunity to rest himself: but considering if he shewed lesse valour then he had done, in vain he might account his travelling thither, and greatly would it rebound to his shame, if the Emperour should be advertised thereof. In the end, he had brought his enemy into such a state, as he got on the bridge without any more resistance, and came to the Tower that stood in the midst thereof; but the gates closed together so furiously, that he was smitten to the earth deprived of his senses.

Lycus being glad that he had recovered the bridge, came to him, and with the help of the Squires carried him into the

Cent; and so suddenly making him they apply to death, re-
motes as though he had to his former death. He had no longer
feeling of himself, but he entered into many real lamentations,
as well for his misfortune and disgrace, as also with the pain
he felt of his adversities. At last he felt of his crime, not being
battered to pieces that a. *Palmador* *with* *himself* *came* *to* *his*
self *and* *to* *the* *en* *the* *types* *and* *his* *pen* *was* *not* *enough*
exile *this* *and* *with* *remembering* *that* *these* *eight* *years* *and*
knights *came* *to* *the* *Isle* *only* *Lynedes* *excepted* *that* *from*
like *honour* *as* *you* *have* *done* *at* *this* *instant* *greater* *reason*
have *you* *than* *to* *think* *your* *fortune* *then* *than* *to* *condemn*
it *with* *reclamations* *Oh* *my* *friend* *(answered* *Belcar)* *little*
pleasure *take* *I* *in* *this* *success* *for* *that* *my* *intent* *placed*
further *but* *seeing* *there* *is* *no* *remedy* *I* *must* *with* *patience*
bear *my* *name* *for* *of* *matters* *so* *divelishly* *enchanted* *can* *sele*
don *at* *the* *greater* *god* *What* *could* *be* *the* *fairies* *and* *their*
hellish *charms* *that* *deal* *to* *disfigure* *with* *poor* *travelling*
knights.

C H A P. III.

How *Belcar* concluded to combat with all such as came to
prove the adventure of *Fraxelima*; and how among others
hee fought with the Marquis of *Trosse*, whom he vanquish-
ed, and afterward with *Tirrendo*, to whom hee made him-
selfe knowne.



Belcar being indifferently calmed by the cru-
eous behaviour of *Lipes*, determined to
recober his deceased soyle by actions of
Chivalry; and therefore resolved to con-
tinue in that place, to combat with all
such as came to try the adventure: but
to his intent he added this principally;
that what deeds of Arms he there performed, as in any other
place where he might be employed all should be for the sake
of *Alderina*, daughter to the Duke of *Pontus*, whom above
all:

all other he meant most constantly to live. And if his fortune were to be turned against him, he might then, without returne to the Count of the King's Rewards. His desire to die hard to live, he was not a little glad thereof, saying, that he should sustain great matters by his enterprise, because extremely many of his knights selected this then. And because (quoth he) you are so resolutely minded, nothing shall make me to forsake your company, but to behold the knightly Chevalry, which I am out of count to see executed by you. I offer my self to accompany you in all lawfull enterprises.

Now the better to furnish their wants, he sent to his Father house for all kind of provision, that might agree with the time of their abode there. By this time Belcar found himself able to beate arms and therefore went to take his place of charge, at that time the Marquis of Treffe came to hazard his fortune. This Marquis was a brave and hardy man of Arms, and although he came from his Country well accompanied with his Squires and Pages, yet caused he them to stay a pretty distance from that place, and came thither but with one Squire that carried his lance. When Belcar saw him make so courageously toward the Bridge, he mounted on horseback and coming to him, thus spake.

Gentleman, you may not passe here, except you first try the Jonck with me, because I have established here such a Law, as that no Knight shall have battell with him that keeps the Bridge, untill he have first dismounted me: for having received some foyle in this place not many dayes since, I will not suffer any one to prevaile in this adventure, unless he bring me first into subjection.

Great boldnesse is this in you (answered the Marquis) that you will take in hand to beate a Lurthen of such weight, but I thinke you doe it to this end, that you might depart hence with greater shame and confusion, then ever you sustained heretofore. That quarrell (quoth Belcar) shall our Swords soon decide. And so without any more speeches they fell to the combat, wherein the Marquis shewed very knightly and gal-

lant behaviour, albeit Belcar call him from him from his saddle, afterwards fought with him on foot a long while : but in the end the *Parquesse* was vanquished, and understanding the name of his Conquerour, returned to the place where he left his company, and after he had recovered better health, he then rode straight to *Macedon*, where he recounted his overthrow by Belcar. Of this news the King *Florendos* and the Queen were very joyful, saying they had a Nephew that was so named, wherefore they desired to know what Arms he wore : when the *Parquesse* told them he was in green armour, without question (quoth the King) it was the same Knight that won the honour of the *Tourney*, and went hence secretly lest he should be known : wherewith I cannot be justly offended, because both in this enterprise and knightly valour, he resembleth his worthy father King *Frysol*. Each one in Court was well pleased with these tidings, but above all other the *Princesse Alderina*, because she had bequeathed his remembrance to the secret closet of her heart, and as the daisies, so her lovely affections to him increased, in respect of the great praises was every where bruted of him, which made many worthy knights to adventure their fortune with him, with whose conquest he still gave grace to his own report. But let us now return to the damosel that followed Belcar, to be revenged for her brethrens death she seeing *Cardino* was indifferently recovered, took her leave of him, because she intended to prosecute her enemy. It so fell out, *Tirendos* son to the Duke *Eustace*, who travelled to find his companion Belcar arrived at the same lodging where the damosel was, and noting her complaints, which she could deliver very artificially, he took compassion on her, promising to assist her in what he could. Demanding the cause of her sorrowful lamentations she told him how she had two brethren traitterously slain by a villainous knight whom her father entertained into his castle, and she pursuing the murderer, met a courteous knight that undertook to revenge her cause, yet his misfortune was such, as he was likewise dangerously wounded which made her griefs the more impatient. These flattering griefs so beguiled

Tiendos, as he again made her promise of his aid, inquiring of her where the wanted Knight was.

My Lord (quoth she) he is here in his chamber, & restly well recovered by my paines and diligence. No sooner was Tixerdos entred the chamber, but he immediately knew Cardino, for whose hurt he was a great deal more sorrowfull: and therefore bowed to him and the damosel, if eber he met the Knight to be revenged on him. After many courteous embraces & kind speeches, he told Cardino how Belcar and he were both knighted in one day, by the Emperour of Constantinople from whence he very suddenly and secretly departed: and eber since have I followed in search of him, yet in no place can I hear any tidings of him. What arms doth he bear, said Cardino. White, as I take it, answered Tiendos, and such as are both rich and costly. No such Knight have I seen (quoth Cardino) happily he may be now at Macedon, at the magnificent nuptials of the Princesse Denisa.

Whither would I go, said Tiendos, had I not past my promise to this Damosel; nor can my mind enjoy any quiet, untill I have found the Knight that so wronged her and you. All this night they were very merry together, especially the damosel for Tiendos his promise, because he seemed a man of sufficient valour to accomplish her desire. On the morrow they took their leave of Cardino, and journeyed toward the Isle of Carderia, where they arrived as Belcar was managing his great horse; and no sooner had the Damosell espied him, but she presently knew him by his Armour, wherefore dissembling pittifull looks, she thus spake to Tiendos.

Behold Sir the Traitor that did put my Brethren to death I thinke the heavens stayed him in this place, that vengeance might be taken on him for the harms he hath done. Tixerdos was not a little glad hereof, because he should now make the first tryall of his Chivalry. But Belcar (who knew him by his Armour, being the same wherein he received his order) was scant well pleased with his presence, because he doubted that he was sent to find him: notwithstanding, he would make a little proof of him in the Joust, and therefore he came to him with these words.

You may passe no further this way Sir Knight, because I stand here to make denial thereof. Little can it shall I make answerd Tiredos, of such as thou art, thy traitterously murderest Gentlemen who gave thee welcome: beyond thy defects, which I will cause thee buy full dearly. What would I faine see, said Belcar, if it be in thee to make me: confess that which I never thought, much lesse committed. Thou lyest as a homicide answerd Tiredos, I will make good what I have said, therefore get you to your swords. Here with they gave the space to their Swords, and met very valiantly together, so that with breaking their Lances, they gave each other a little wound, Belcar losing his stirrups, and Tiredos cast forth of his saddle to the ground, but recovering himself presently, he came against his enemy with his sword drawn, saying, Alight Sir you were best, or I shall lay your Horse.

What will I gladly doe (quoth Belcar) but it shall be to embrace you, for I have no will to enter combat with you. Alas Sir, said Tiredos, it is no time now to scold, albeit I am from my horse, I am not wounded. Great pleasure took Belcar to reason with so singular good friend, and alighting from his horse, thus replied, I speak for you good (Sir) if you can do it; but seeing reason will not cure you, I am content to deal with you a little. Tiredos soon what offended at the fall, began to strike at Belcar very roughly; but seeing that he was to wound his friend, threw his sword and withheld to the ground, and with open arms came to embrace him saying, My perfect friend Tiredos, I have heretofore had experience of thy valiant behaviour, wherefore forgive thy brother Belcar, for not acquainting thee with my departure from Constantinople, yet was I assured, that thou wouldst follow in search of me.

How now (quoth Tiredos?) are you then my Lord and loving friend Belcar? In truth the error committed, was only ignorance of you: put off your Helmet that I may be refreshed; for your misguided Armour made me mistake you. So casting do one their Helmetts, they embraced each other very courteously, when Tiredos thus spake to Belcar. Ward-

ly can I be perswaded, my Lord, that you would consent to such treason as this Damzell hath informed me withall. Declare I pray you (quoth Belcar) whence ariseth this slander; for another Knight (who I think I have slain or sore wounded) pursued me with the like quarrell; doubtlesse this Damosell is some bad woman, to accuse me with any such disloyalty. She told me said Tirendos, that you being honourably entertained at her fathers Castle, where one night you were very friendly lodged, and on the morrow her three Brethren bare you company on the way, and two of them without any cause you did murther, leaving the third in very great danger of death.

Ah trayterous Damosel, answered Belcar, what an evident slander hath she raised on me: And herewith he rehearsed the whole discourse, according as you have read it in the first chapter of this Book. She seeing the two Knights agree thus friendly, with the teares in her eyes, gave forth these speeches. Miserable and unfortunate that I am, what a subtil collusion doe I heare: This Knight is as false and disloyall to me in not revenging my shame, as the murtherer that hath so highly wronged me: But seeing I am thus circumvented, and he a persured wretch by breach of his promise unlesse I speedily dye, I will cause him to repent it, and be sufficiently revenged on them both.

So gallopped she the same way she came, and Belcar with Tirendos went into the Tent, where they discoursed together on many matters, Tirendos declaring how Cardino was the other Knight that fought in the Damosels cause, for which the Prince was greatly offended with himselfe; and to weare away that conceit, acquainted Tirendos with his fortune at the Castle, and of the taske he has taken in hand, which he liked so well, as he concluded likewise to beare him company. Thus Lypes and they two remained there together, oftentimes resorting to visit his mother and sisters, who would not suffer them to want any thing: And such was the fame of Belcars victories, as the whole Realme of Macedon, and the Emperours Court of Greece, was cloyed with the daily re-

ports thereof. But here will we leaue these Champions a while, and speake of the good Knight *Palmendos*, Son to the Emperour *Palmerin*, and the Queene of *Tharsus*.

CHAP. V.

How *Palmendos* understanding that hee was Son to the Emperour *Palmerin*, caused himselfe to be armed Knight: And how he intreated licence of the Queene his Mother to goe see *Constantinople*, which at length very hardly hee obtained, and what happened thereon.



Carefully did the Queene of *Tharsus* nourish her young Son *Palmendos*, whom she had by the Emperour *Palmerin*, when he followed the exercise of Armes, and was entertained by the Admirall *Alfaro* in the Realm of *Palmeria*, as you may read in his worthy *History*. This child, as he grew in yeares so did he increase in all vertuous behaviour, being unable to shadow his royall descent; yet to hinder his desire from search after his Father (the Queen and all the Nobility so entirely affecting him) no knowledge might be given him thereof, lest by that mean he should become a Christian. And that he might be instructed in those heroicall qualities, which becom a Prince of so high calling, the Queen committed him to the charge of the Brother to the deceased King her husband a Knight of great wisdom and valour; by whom he was so worthily educated, as he won the love of every one in general, Rigour he would requite with mercy and clemency, and charity he preferred to all his actions; notwithstanding as he shewed courteous and benigne countenance towards the good, so did he sternly and severely oppose himselfe against the bad, so that by his exquisite prudence, and choise care in honourable causes, in his youth he would learne to manage the affairs of the Realme, wherein he shewed himselfe so quick of spirit, and susceptible, as he was to be such a politick Decanomy, that

the Queen intended to put the Royal Government into his hands. If he were thus enriched with all perfect virtues, nothing wanted in him for brave constitution of Body, whereof he made no shew of pride or presumption, but became so famous through all the neighbour Marches and limitrophes of Tharsus as the very best would come to offer him their service.

The Court was filled with resort of Nobles and others; for beside the Royal Nature he brought from his Mothers womb, according to the Idea and celestial influence of his constellation, he was born and naturally inclined to Arms, which made him evermore converse with the most skillful in that science. But one day before he was armed knight, a very aged, decrepit and over-spent woman came and sat down on a step in the porch of the Palace, attired in such poor garments as her naked flesh was seen in many places; and there sat she trembling in such sort as though her soul were ready to forsake her body. Such as passed in & out of the Court were greatly amazed hereat, and moved to pity her case very much so that Palmendos came himself to behold her; and seeing she would use no speeches to him, went in again and sat down to dinner. Afterwards, coming forth to walk abroad for his delight, he found her sitting there still in the same place, wherefore he called his Cousin Ozalio to him, who was son to his Uncle and Tutor saying. Can we not understand what this poor old woman would have; Ozalio as desirous as the Prince, came to the old woman, demanding of whence she was and if she knew in need of any thing? But she without answering one word, gave him a very frowning countenance and afterwards scornfully turned her back towards him: wherewith Ozalio somewhat offended, did give her such a spin with his foot, as she tumbled quite beside her seat, whereat Palmendos and his Lords merrily laughed: But their pastime was quickly altered into admiration; for after the woman arose again, the stature of such huge deformed stature, as each one was amazed that had beheld her before; and turning her self angrily towards the Prince, she used these speeches.

Oh *Palmendos*, little regardst thou to resemble the Emperour of Constantinoble thy father, whose gentleness and sweetness stretcheth as well to the meanest persons, as them that are Nobles, and of great account. What gaineest thou in rejoycing at the injury done me by thy Knight? I pray that the great imperious Monarch Cupid (quoth she, with lifting up her eyes and hands to heaven) may so cruelly wound thy heart with the love of fair *Francelina*, and cause thee to conceive such gracious thoughts of her, as thou mayest leave this idle and delicious life thou ledest, to win the honour that is gotten with pain and trael. So did thy father heretofore for the fair *Princels Polynarda*, whom he loved so religiously, as with the dexterity and strength of his body, he assayed to gain the reward which Fortune provideth for her chiefest favourites: whereon imperially he is now mounted, accompanied with the greatest felicity that can happen to any one under this Hemisphere. Leave then these wanton and Courtly settings, wherein thy mother laboureth to contain thee, and now began to manage *Atms*, which may make thy name perpetual, and yield the reward of immortal glory: for it will redound to thy great Shame, being Son to so rare and so invincible a Knight, not this way to imitate his laborious deeds. And when I shall see thee thoroughly wrapped in the passions of love, I will think my self satisfied with revenge of the dishonour, which thou hast suffered to be done to me in thy presence.

The old Woman so breaking off immediately banished away, to the great terror of all the beholders, especially of the young Prince *Palmendos*, whose senses were for a while estranged; and walking up and down musing on the old Womans words, his heart was so enflamed with the love of her he knew not, as he was enforced thus to commune with himself. What may the Lady be with whom (at the report of this woman) I find my self so distraughted? Doubtless, if her words be no fables, but that I am son to the Emperour of Constantinoble, it behoves me to enterprize such actions, as I may be judged somewhat to resemble him.

While his spirit was thus busied with diversity of these thoughts and no one daring to interrupt him, Ozalio went into the Queens chamber; and telling what had happened, she was therewith greatly displeased. Immediately she came down into the great Hall, and finding her son thus perplexed, took him by the hand, causing him to sit downe by her, and then began to him in this manner.

I know not (my Son) what follies it should seeme the old Hag hath troubled your mind withall; but refrain from giving credit to them and I shall tell you the very truth of all. Madam (answered Palmendos) I am certaine you will not dally with me; notwithstanding I cannot but marvel, that you would all this while conceale the originall of my birth? for the Emperour Palmerin being such a worthy accomplished knight, as he is esteemed of every one, little occasion have I of disdain to be his Sonne; and you much lesse to keepe it from me. Wherefore I humbly intreat your Majesty, to resolve me faithfully of this present doubt; to the end, if it be so, I may shew my selfe forthwith its duty, in causing the bird to flourish that came from such a noble and vertuous stocke. And feare not that for his sake I will abandon you; because it is impossible for me to leave the Land wherein I have hitherto lived, for a strange opinion which I am ignorant in. As my Son (quoth the Queen) the Gods to inspire and direct your designs that you may perfectly accomplish what you have promised; for the onely feare to lose your company hath caused me to conceale the thing you are so desirous to know. But seeing you have heard what I can no longer dissimble assure your selfe my Son, that the old woman hath told nothing but truth.

Hereupon she recounted the whole History, how to have issue by such a peerlesse Prince, (imitating Thales his Queen of the Amazons, who for the like cause acquainted her selfe with the valiant King Alexander) she by the counsell of a wise Magician, amorously beguiled the Emperour Palmerin. Lastly, she intreated him not to forsake her while she lived,

because her life was onely prolonged by his presence.

Great matters have you told me (answered the young Prince;) the Emperour then knowes not that he hath any Child by you: So verily (replied the Queen) nor would I he should know it for the whole world. Nor can he I thinke understand it by any (said the Prince;) yet, in mine opinion I count it necessary that one day I should goe see my father: But trust me Adam it shall not be without speedy returne, because I am determined not to leave you, or give order (with my will) the Country and Kingdom: which the heavens have appointed me to rule and governe. Thus reasoned the Mother and her Son on others matters; and henceforth the Prince shewed himselfe more chearfully disposed, intending very shortly to be armed Knight, and to be called the knight of Cupid, bearing for his Devise, an Hart wounded with an Arrow. For himselfe he provided an Armour as red as blood; and for Ozalio whom he loved as his brother, a faire white Armour: and were both knighted by Ozalio his father, who was one of the best Knights in all those parts.

Having thus received their Order, a very solemn feast was made in honour thereof, during which time Palmendos gave away sundry sumptuous gifts: Yet could he not be unmindefull of Franceclina, or forget one jot of the old Romans words, because he had lodged them so neare his heart, as they were (in manner) a martyrdom to him. For eale whereof he determined to see Greece, as also to visite the Emperour his father, and learne some tydings of his unknowne Lady: for he perswaded himselfe that the old Romans speeches grew upon no small occasion. And finding the Quene his mother one afternoon at good leysure, among others other proceedings betwene them, Palmendos earnestly intreated her to grant him one request; which the Queen (who loved him as her proper life, and not thinking he would have desired any such thing) agreed unto very willingly.

Then would I god Adam (quoth he) not conceive any displeasure, if I make a brieve voyage to Constantinople, to see the Emperour my father, and the good knights in his Court;

for since the time you assured me that I was his Son, my desires have been unmeasurable to travele this journey. Yet I sweare by the Sacred and inviolable faith, which the Child above all other oweth to his Father, to returne againe with all possible speed. Alas my Son (quoth the Queen, giving a bitter sigh) your words have so sharply piercet my heart, as me thinks I feele my very thread of life cut in sunder, the feare of this present extremity, withheld me from uttering mine owne ruine: but seeing I cannot hinder what I have consented to, with what patience I can I will beare my misfortune. One thing yet would I commend to thee, if zeale and love to thy Mother may sollicite any compassion: that thou wouldest return to the place of thy birth as soon as thou canst, that mine eyes beholding thee once more before I dye, my soul may passe with greater comfort into another world.

So help me God, answered Palmendos, as I intend not to breake the deale of your commandments, nor will I deferre you in my short and speedy return. With then my Son (quoth the Queen) you will needs undertake this voyage, I would advise you to take good heed of hardy Knights with you, that your entertainment by the Emperour may be more honorable. Adam (quoth he) I am certaine my Lord will not esteem any thing the more of me for my company, because it shall suffice that I am King of Tharus wherof consisteth the point of my rencowne: as for my paine in travell, some report of good successe in Chivalry shall wipe that away. For (as you are not ignorant thereof) his Majesty travelled alone through the world, oppoyling his unconquerable mind against all adventures whatsoever: yet did the divine bounty evermore shield him from perill and death, and as he, so many other famous Kings and Potentates.

What enterprize was more dangerous then that of Jason when he won the Golden fleece in the Isle of Chokos: or that of the gentle Champion Theseus, when he conquered the Minotaur in the inextricable Labyrinth of Crete? yet the Gods defended them in all their attempts. In my time (quoth he) I have seene, that poore and simple Ships have in the

sea, with great fortune in tempests and outrage, and at length have returned home richly furnished; on the contrary I have noted, that sundry gallant vessels have cut with full saile thorough calm & quiet Seas, favoured both with wind & weather, and at the very entrance of the Havens mouth, have split on some Rock, or sustained other mischance. Needlesse then were my feare of the Sea, or fortune, because (where ere I goe) death tracks me as my shadow, and dare not strike till he be commanded; therefore I am thus determined to have none with me but Ozalio and two Squires, because we will travell as meane Gentlemen, and try our manhood with the knights of Europe, before the Emperour shall have any knowledge of me.

The Queen would no more contrary his intent, but referred all things to his own disposing, wherefore Palmendos having sent for the chiefe Lords of the Realme, declared to them openly his mind; giving them this expresse charge to obey the Queen his Mother, and his Uncle, whom he left as Lieutenant General of the Province in his absence. They all lozely that he would so soon depart knew not how to hinder it, he being so resolute; notwithstanding, they promised to fulfill his command, wishing him a tranquile and prosperous Navigation. Soon after the Queen went to her Cabinet, where her hand supplying the office of her tongue, she wrote a friendly Letter to the Emperour, which she accompanied with a Ring like to that she gave him at his departure; to the end that by his Jewel, Palmendos might be the sooner knowne of him.

Wholy and all things ready for this voyage, he took his leave of his Lords and Subjects, and afterward of the Queen his Mother, who biting in her griefe as well as she could, delivered him the Ring, and the Letter, the contents whereof thus followeth.

*The Letter of the Queen of Tharsus to the Emperour
Palmerin.*

To the most Illustrious and Famous *Palmarin d'Olive*, Em-
perour of *Constantinople*, the most loyall of Lovers, most
accomplished of Knights, and above all the Princes that in-
habite the center of the Earth: The *Queene of Tharsus* his
intire and perpetuall Friend, sendeth health, humbly kissing
the hand of his Majesty.

I f the Heavens had so bountifullly bestowed those perfecti-
ons in my Cradle, which the most accomplished Ladies
make their brunt of, as Fortune was afterward favourable
and courteous unto me, in adorning my head with the royall
Diadem of *Tharsus*: needlesse had my recourse been to charms
and Magick (O favoured & fortunate Prince) when I sought
your acquaintance in the realm of *Palmeria*. But sith by that
small talent wherewith nature endow'd me: the disinter-
granted me the sweet aspect of your love, after I beheld you
with our Admiral *Alfarano*: my primitive vertue could not
prevaile against unquenchable desire, because the same of your
revelation was so carred in my spirit, as my former chaste and
bashfull continency, was in the end irrecoverably contaminate.
Yet can I not repute this change as matter of misfortune,
seeing the heavenly powers were so benigne as from that act
proceeded *Palmendos* our onely son: from whom I still thinke
that you were his father, albeit by strange means he was not
long since so certified thereof, from which time he hath so
possessed by intreaties as he hath constrained me (not with-
out great grief and doubtful fear neerer to see him again) to
suffer him come to his noble father. And hardly could I yield
thereto, but that my confidence in you is such: as you will
quickly return him again: forasmuch as you have seen and know
him to be so virtuous a young man. I hope you will not be
diffident, when you consider the worthiness of a young Prince
whose beauteous qualities, & good carriage of himself, surpass his

commendable fortune. In this sort have I sent him accompanied onely with his Cousin, because he thus perswaded me; that when you travelled the world, it was commonly alone, and as a simple knight errant, and least you should be scrupulous in acknowledging him your son, beside the consequres of his phisognomy, proportion of body, and other your perfect resemblances. I have by him sent you a King, like that which I gave you when you parted from me, which Kings, if you compare together, you will remember the words I spake wanted no relation. Once more I conjure ye, by the honour and reverence of the firme Love, you alwayes beare so religiously to the only mistress of your heart, that you will quickly retrieve our son againe, that he may yet be some comfort to my following date of time, while I enjoy my being in this most Region.

The most humble of your friends,
the *Queene of Thersu.*

Palmerin, by meanes of a Tempest on the Sea was brought to the Coast of Delphos; where after hee understood the advantage of the Temple, hee went on shore. And how so after he conquered the Son to the Giant *Basilon*, who held the Island in forcible subjection.

Palmerin with *Oxalis* and their squires embarked the partners horses, and set away merrily, the Prince commanding the pilot to make towards Thraee, because hee hoped to heare some tydings of *Francelina*, whom he had made his mistress of his life. But after they had sailed before a violent contrary wind arose, which doe be them that dayes and that night as the partners could scant tell in what part they

they were. At length this rough and boisterous tempest ceased, when *Palmeados* desirous to know in what Countrey they were: was answered by the *Passer*, that they were in Europe in the *Mediterranean Sea*, very neare to the *Ile of Delphos*, where after so long and uncomfortable weather, *Palmeados* would goe on Land to refresh himselfe. In this *Ile* the *Magans* were often wont in ancient time, to come and visit the Temple of *Apollo*, and also to consult with his Oracle; and at this time was Lord thereof a Giant named *Bale-don*, the most fierce and cruell Tyrant in all those three parts of the world.

This Giant had a Son no lesse valiant then himselfe, and after he had by force gotten this *Iland*, he builded a Castle on a little Promontorie, descending so artificially into the Sea, as having a huge Rock on either side, it was well defended from the extremity of the water. No other port for landing would he permit in all the *Iland* then this onely, hemmed in with the two Rocks, betwene which he had fastened a great chaine of yron, which commonly lay somewhat shallow in the water. But when any vessell came to anchor in that port, certaine villaines which he kept in Towers for the purpose, would hoist them up with the Chaine in such sort, that they could depart no more thence except the Giant pleased; and thus would he rob and spoyle all that landed there, that all those parts lamented to heare of his villany. If haply he met with any Knights who resisted his will, then would he outrage them by force of Arms, and afterward put them into an infectious stinking prison. The Merchants and others that used traffique, from them would he take all they had, and afterward deliver them over unto a most cruell death, so that all such as had notice of his tyranny, fled that place as the dangerous gulph of *Caribdis*.

Yet notwithstanding there was in this *Iland* a great adventure, for in the time of the Gentiles there inhabited a wealthy Priest a *Magitian*, and wonderfull investigator of hidden things, he was high Priest of the Sanctuary in the Temple, as also he had the generall administration through the whole

Province: he having a comely beautifull Daughter, indued with all vertues requisite in a Virgin, and her he gave to the service of the Duke. It so fell out, that the Duke of Feris, a very gentle and gracious yonth, became enamoured of her onely by report, for oftentimes hee had heard her commended to exceed in Beauty the choicest dames in that Countrey: wherefore he made sundry requests to enjoy her as his Wife, but all his labour was to no purpose, because her father would not part with her. And as it often happeneth, that the Messenger who is twice or thrice sent to one place, to obtaine a matter earnestly desired, will devise what meanes he can for the behoofe of his Master, more to escape the shame of refusall, then for any great good will (happily) to the party: When so fell it out with the minister of this rate; for seeing he went and returned so often without a vaile, he got one day to speake with the Maiden her selfe, whom he laboured with so many perswasions, and whetted on to it in a secret marriage, as she became ravished with the love of the Duke, and promised if his Master could cunningly steale her from her Father, she should goe with him whither he pleased.

The Duke not a little glad of this answer, presently journeyed to the Island, where being arrived, he advertised the dampsell, that he would stay for her in a convenient place near her fathers Pallace, whither she would not fail to come so soon as the silent night had brought every one asleepe. But the Priest, who by means of his Magick foresaw all these practises, and knowing the place where the Duke of Feris stayed for his Daughter: caused two fierce enchanted Lions to descend from the mountains, which came with ravenous mouths on the unprovided Duke, and he no way able to defend himselfe, they rent and tore him cruelly in pieces.

Which pittifull spectacle when his Squire that came with him beheld, he gave such a lamentable shriek, as the damosell (whose eyes and ears were carelessly waking) easily heard it. In like sort did others others of the house, who came forth with lighted torches to understand the cause, but the maiden hearing so soon in what case they found the Duke, came running

running from the Castle as a mad Woman to accomplish the Sacrifice. Such was her grief to behold her belov'd Husband thus cruelly massacred, as she taking his Rapier, set the pommel thereof to the ground, and placing the point opposite to her heart, with manly violence thereon she set her self thereon as one disdaining to live, being rob'd of her love. Nevertheless, she was herein deceived, for the Sword passing through her right side, she fell upon the dead corps and so lay a while alive, breathing forth many grievous sighs and lamentations. And finding in her bosom a sheet of paper, with her own blood she wrote twelve mournfull verses in form of an Epitaph: then seeking her latest hour to hasten on, with rufull moenes she delivered these speeches.

Saying it is so, my sweet choice, and paragon of courtesse, that for my sake thou hast entured this martyrdom, it will remaine as a gall in my Conscience, that I did not end the funerals according to thy desert. And that my Father may know what wrong hee hath done us, I will leave some occasion for his too late repentance; yet I desire no other recompence, but causing our bodies to be buried in one Coffin, he will suffer (for a perpetuall remembrance of this stratagem) this Epitaph to be engraven thereon.

Forbeare mine Eyes more to bemoane thy Friend,
Whose peerless Vertues, Time, nor Death can staine:
Despise the Man that thus procur'd his end,
And hath withall his onely Daughter staine.
Ah angry Fate, and Placet most unkind,
What more inhumane Act could yee devise:
Then step between the Heart, the Eye, and Mind,
And pierce that veyne which could them all suffice
But sith in Life our fortune was so bad,
To misse of that which we desired most:
Yet now in Death the same is freely had,
Wherefore of Love in Death we make our boast.

This Epitaph ended, she yielded the humane tribute to nature, for afterward her body made no motion of vitall moving,

and it cannot be esteemed as fabulous that Love should cause the death of any one, because in ancient Histories we may find innumerable of recent and moderne examples thereof.

But returne we to the Priest, who understanding that his Daughter ran forth with such a clamour, followed her immediately, fearing she would offer some violence on her selfe, and finding her dead, holding the Epitaph in her hand, he was in great danger to make a third in this wofull tragedy. Ah miserable and desolate wretch (quoth he) if thy knowledge had efficacy in working the Duke of Feria's death, why was it not sufficient to prevent thy Daughters mishap: unhappy was the houre when first I practised this obelish sorcery.

Many other sorrowfull lamentations he made over the dead bodies, whom we may aptly compare to the loyall Lovers Piramus and Thisby: but afterward he erected a costly Sepulcher of brasse, and having embalmed them according to the ancient ceremonies of Funerall pompe, he intombed them in the Temple both together, and raised the Epitaph to be cunningly graven thereon.

Not long after, considering himselfe deprived of his lawfull heire, and how greatly he had perverted the course of nature very extreame griefe ended his dayes: but ere he dyed, he inclosed treasure of the Temple with such enchantments, and with so strong and fearfull a guard, that from the time of his Death it was very dangerous to come neare the place. And till the time of *Palmendos* arrivall there, there durst not any one make tryall thereof, albeit before *Baledon* abused the Island, knights of divers Regions came to prove their fortune, and the Giant himselfe came thither for the same occasion, but seeing he could not approach the Temple, perceiving the Island to be faire and delectable; he got it by force of Arms, the people thereof being unable any way to resist his hostility.

Let us now remember where we left before, the arrivall of *Palmendos* in this Island of *Delphos*, to whom one of the *Pariners* told all these things, as also the horrible villany of the Giant: wherefore hee intreated him not to anchor in that

Port, because (quoth he) we shall all be either haine or taken
prisoners. Wh by : said *Palmerin*, is no man able to punish
his paines and tyranny : seeing Fortune hath conducted me
hither, and will permit me to have a sight of him I will not
depart without some proofe of my selfe : for if I be taken to the
Emperour *Palmerin*, I must not be frighted with the name of
Giants, who rather resemble huge Colosses without any soules,
then humane creatures, much lesse strange adventures, both
hard and dangerous soe her they seeme. If I would acquire
praise and honour immortall, long time must I follow galli-
cary exercise, as my Father did in his younger dayes, pre-
bailing against divers such monsters, and bringing innumerable
enterprises to happy end : Turne now then toward those,
and boldly let us enter the Port, without any of this refo-
med Goliath : With much adoe they set into the Port, where
they were no sooner entred, but they saw themselves inclosed
with the Chaine ; which sight dismayed both the Spawer and
Mariners, but *Palmerin* and *Ozario* presently put on their
helmets and their Gantelets, standing ready for defence of all
the rest.

The Giant being advertised that a rich Ship was got forth
in the chaine, commanded his Son presently to take Arms,
and with sufficient assistants to see and take all the strangers
Prisoners ; whereto the young Ezant was very ready, and
entring with these knights into a Boat, he came directly to
the Ship, where *Palmerin* standing forward, the Giants
sonne thus spake to him.

How darest thou, knight, be so bold, as to enter our Port
without licence : I dare doe more then that, answered *Pal-
merin*, in despite of such disloyall villaine as you are, who
by treacherous means intrap the innocent, and exercise
what cruelty you please upon them, but now is the time
come, I hope that shall guarden you with recompence
for such faults, as you have done.

The Giants son disdained with these words, commanded
his knights to enter suddenly the Ship, who being
and *Ozario* being so high above them, gave order to many

sharp repulses, that young Baledon received his death's wound at the Princess's hand, and Ozalio sent another of the Knights to brave him company. With this foyle the boat speedily returned, and they advertised Baledon of what had happened, bringing his Son flaine up into his chamber; wherewith he was so wonderfully enraged, that he vowed to revenge his blood with the death of all the Strangers. In bitter anguish of heart, he called for his Armour, preparing himselfe to the dismall attempt; in the meane time, the two Knights that escaped backe alive, stood on the Shore rebelling the Prince, with wordfull and opprobious words, willing him to prepare for his death was coming.

At your Quarter (quoth *Palmendos*) be so ballant as you respect; let him deale alone with me in single fight, and if I chance to vanquish him, let him accomplish what I shall set downe and I will grant him Life: On the contrary, if he conquer me let him doe with mine as him best pleaseth.

And tell him (from me) that Brabadoes and proud speeches cannot daunt resolute minds; and if he will dare grant me safe conduct, with good assurance not to offer or doe me any wrong by treachery, I will presently come to him on Shore, and try my fortune with him in combat.

CHAP. VII.

How *Palmendos* came on land to combat with the Giant *Brabadoes*, whom he vanquished, and afterward delivered many Knights out of his prisons, among whom were two young Princes, being Moores, who in travelling to the Emperours Court, were by a tempest cast on this Island.



Very soon went the Knights to the Giant with *Palmendos* challenge, who being right well pleased therewith, came down proudly to the port, with these speeches: Which is y matched Knight that dares so presumptuously venture on Shore, to receive the death he hath justly deserved? I am the man (answered *Palmendos*)

and I will be to you as my sword, if thou wilt faithfully promise me safety from thy people: By the hallowed faith said Baledon) that I owe to our Gods, thou shalt be as secure as thou canst requite, albeit I die under thy sword in combat.

The Prince loth to waste the time in words, called for a skiff to carry him on shore, which the Mariners unwillingly consented to, being loth to lose a knight so valliant. In haste, he came on land, and no one with him but his cousin Ozalio, who would not at any time forsake his company. Baledon pranceth up to the plain before the Castle, commanding his attendants on pain of their lives, not any way to trouble or molest his enemy. Now are the champions covered with their swords and shields, and with such fury do the weapons clash upon the armour, as though Vulcan and his Cyclops were at work with their hammers. You must think that the Giant being a man of monstrous stature, dealing with a young Prince, but a gristle (in a manner) in comparison of him, did often bring his life to very perillous exigents: notwithstanding to did the Heavens favour Palmendos, and dispell the manifold tyrannies of the Giant, as after a long, cruel and bloody fight, Baledon had received so many wounds, as he was constrained to fall at the Princes mercy; for which Palmendos humbly thanking heaven, boldly set his foot upon the Giant saying. Confesse thy self, Baledon, vanquished by me, and let me enjoy the prisoners which thou unjustly detainest in thy Castle, for the remainder of thy life hangeth on the point of my sword.

When the Giant beheld his great point so overthrown, and he had no mean now left wherewith to defend himself, he breathed forth these sorrowfull speeches. Ah angry Gods how strange and others are your judgments, in suffering both me and my son to be spoiled by one knight: Now is I will, that mine infinite and wicked offences committed against men without desert, hath throught this sorrowfull sentence on me. When calling his servants, he commanded them to conduct the Prince into the Castle, and deliver all his prisoners to him, with any thing else he should command them.

So went the Prince with his cousin Ozahio and two of the Giants to vantage to the Castle, the rest remained to bring their Masters dead body, and when they were entred into the bafe Court, they met the Giants heakily lamenting, & cursing the knight who was cause thereof. But *Palmerdos*, made no account of her words, commanding all the prisoners to be presently brought before him, which indeed were very many, both knights, Merchants, and other travelling strangers, who had long time been kept there in captivity; and now seeing they were so generally called, they verily thought to die, or endure some cruel torment; but finding the contrary, I leave them so, to the Readers judgement. When *Palmerdos* called for the knights Armour, that each one knowing his own Armour might be armed therewith. For this their happy deliverance, they all fell down at the Princes feet, desiring God to reward his honourable paines.

But among the prisoners, there were two young knights of comely stature, being both Boys, who had not long time been held in that servitude, and witnessing by their countenances that they were descended of royal parentage. The one of them was *Rislarano*, Son to *Trineus* Emperour of *Almain*, and *Aurecinda* the *Soldans* sister, as you may read in the History of *Palmerin d'Oliua*; the other was named *Lecefin*, son to the *Soldan* of *Perfia*, being the youngest of three, which he had by the Princess *Zephira*. These two young Lords were nourished together by the *Soldan*, because he beheld the covetously inclination of *Rislarano*, whom he ever imagined would prove a worthy knight, and because he was Son to his sister and the Emperour *Trineus* his great friend, he loved him as *Lecefin* his own child. *Rislarano* coming to the age of ten or twelve years, was very forward in all commendable exercises, and one day reasoning with his mother, desired her to tell him the cause, why she went so continually close in mourning, the truth whereof she discoursed to him, and told him that she was the Emperour *Trineus* of *Almain*. When *Rislarano* understood that he was Son to one of the chief Princes in *Christendome*, he made greater account of himself then he

did before, and disposed himself to matters of higher quality, so that being of years to receive his inheritance he requested the Souldan to honour him therewith; which he with right good will performed, causing Tournaments and Tournaments to solemnize that time withall, wherein Rissano still bore away the prize. Following arms and chivalry he still continued, and with good success won such a fame through all Persia, as the Souldan thought to join him in marriage with the King Mauslemo's eldest daughter. But he would never harken to such matters, for that he secretly loved to see the Emperour his father, whereas his mother (whose long sickness had now hardened) evermore persuaded him that Treucus beholding the fruit of her love, might think the better of his acquaintance with her.

After the obsequies and royall funeral, as he himself was a witness of so great regard and Rissano loth to stay, his mother being dead: he desired the Souldan that he might travell to Constantinople, to see the Court of the Emperour Palmerin, and thence he would go to his father in Achaia. Albeit very unwilling, yet the Souldan consented, whereat the young Prince Leceus, who loved Rissano as himself, began to conceive great sorrow: wherefore he intreated his father that he might travell with him in company, perswading him that it would be a cause of his cousins more speedy return. The Souldan liked hereof very well, and although he was yet very young he gave him his knighthood: and so with others presents from his father and Zephira, as also letters to both the Emperours, accompanied with thirty brave knights they took shipping, and by means of an exceeding rough tempest on the sea, they were driven perforce into this Isle of Delphos, where being hummed in with the chain, and flattered by the Giant to come on shore, without suspecting any treason they went to his Castle, and finding outward friendly entertainment, they were fetched forth of their beds and thrust into prison, and twenty of the knights that came with them cruelly murdered, the rest were brought into the Dungeon to their Masters and afterwards the Giant took the spoil of the Ship at his pleasure.

But to come to our purpose, *Risraro* and *Lecefin* seeing themselves delivered from this dolorous life, much worse then that of the Slaves of the Gallies they spake to *Palmendos* in this manner, Tell us in confidence, good Knight, by what means you have obtained our liberty, for we marvel we see not the Giant who brought us hither by Villany and treason. Gentlemen quoth the the Prince, I am a knight born for battle, and being by the angry seas cast upon this Island, I determined to come on shore, where being no way able to escape the death present before mine eyes, I was constrained to Combat with the Giant you talk of, who so allured me the sooner to the battell, promised me security from any to be himself. But heaven giving me strength, to erect a mortal Trophie of his slaughtered body, hath thereby given you all freedom again.

Might we not, said *Risraro*, know your name to whom we are so much indebted for our deliverance? as for us it is necessary you should know of whence and what we are, that if we should hereafter grow ingratefull for this kindness, the meanest in the world might justly condemne us. This young Prince (quoth he) is named *Lecefin*, Son to the noble Soldan of Persia, and I his unworthy Nephew, issued from *Tineus* Emperour of Almaign, brother by marriage to the incomparable Prince *Palmerin d'Oliva*; hereto he added the whole discourse of their trouble, which you have heard already. In happy time came I hither, answered *Palmendos*, to succour so good and noble Knights as you are, chiefly for your near alliance to the Emperour *Palmerin*, whom I continually desire to serve, and shortly shall present my self unto him: but first (by the favour of Fortune) I would have his ears so acquainted with some actions of account as might move his spirit with the more affection to see me. And seeing you go so soon to his Court, let me intreat this favour at your hands, as to conduct this company with you which I have delivered from prison, and present his Majesty with them from me, as also the wife and daughter of *Baledon* the Giant; for it is both just and reasonable, to dispose this Island of such bad people, as

as have with such horrible tyrannies so long time abused the same. For I dare say, the people that inhabit this Isle will more gladly submit themselves to the Emperours Regiment, then be held in slavery by such Bel-kouges. In mean while we will leave some good Knight of this Ise as Governour thereof in his highnesse name, untill he have disposed thereof as shall seem best in his wisdome. Willingly would I make word before your departure of a strange adventure touched in the Temple: that if I die in the attempt, you may revenge my death, and happily live to finish the same. Riserano and Iccchin man answer, that they would fulfill any thing he pleased to command them, for which *Palmeros* requited them with many thanks.

CHAP. VIII.

How *Palmeros* placed in the Government of the Isle of *Delphos*, an ancient wise Knight named *Cassiodor*, by whom he understood the danger and the difficulty of the adventure in the Temple, whether (notwithstanding) he afterward travelled; and how he fortunately ended the same.



After all the Knights and Gentlemen had armed themselves, *Palmeros* caused the *Giants* and her Daughter to be fastned with a strong chaine to a pillar, lest they should offer some violence on themselves, and the chaine in the port be commanded to be taken away, with all other dangers that might hurt travellers, summoning the people of the Island, he thus began to confer with them.

My Brethren and friends, I cannot thinke but you all rejoyce to see your selves delivered from the miserable servitude, wherein the Tyrant *Baledon* hath long time held you; henceforth therefore I intend, that you shall acknowledge for your liege Lord and Sovereigne the famous & vertuous Emperour *Palmerin d'Olive*, to whom I will make President of this Island which the God of heaven hath suffered me to con-

quest: for you know that *Corax* is mine, his wife and daughter likewise remain in prison, and to his Majesty will I deliver them. Let me therefore intreat you, to continue his true and loyal Subjects, and I shall so behave me, else with his Highness, as he shall sinceforth defend this Island and you: for the government whereof in mean while, I will leave one that shall be chosen among you, who shall swear to resign his office to him whom the Emperor shall please to send hither.

The Knights and Gentlemen of the Island were greatly contented, when they heard *Palmendos* use such gracious speeches, acknowledging themselves happy to remain the Emperours vassals; whereupon they swore fealty to him, and elected a reverend Knight of the Island named *Guillador*, to whom the authority of Deputy was committed, and then they caused the Giants body to be buried, for the horrible villanies he had done in his life time, to which execution all the people of the Island resorted, not so much for the sight thereof, as to honour the Patron of their deliberance.

Every thing thus wisely and discreetly pacified, he determined to try the adventure of the Temple, whereupon the new Governour desired him, not to hazard himself in a matter so perilous, for that many Knights had lost their lives in the attempt; which made *Palmendos* farre more desirous to know wherein the greatest danger thereof consisted, at whose request *Guillador* thus began the discourse. Know my Lord, that the Temple wherein our Worlds great treasure is hid, is a place no where growne as a thicket of young trees by reason of the long time since any one durst approach the same; and in that towne is a savage wild Boare, of more cruell nature certainly then that which *Hercules* slew on the Mountaine *Erymanthus* in *Arcadia*: And when any one durst offer to enter the Temple he cometh forth of his Den, and maketh him sure for ever returning againe. In such (quoth the Prince) these newes are very terrible in hearing, yet never was there any adventure in the world so difficult, but one or other hath accomplished it, and I trusting ouly in the help of God, will try

try if this enchantment were obtained perpetuall, not fearing
a: the Wonders of it, his is the end.

I am that, my Lord (quoth Ritarano) that if you finish not
this enchantment, it will never be accomplished by any other;
therefore boldly set upon it, for gladly would I endure part of
the pain: and by the faith of a true Knight, I shall assist you
with my uttermost endeavour. So what help do I receive (an-
swered Palmerdo) that the advent of the Gods only, and I
hope they will not be far from me, if so I stand in need thereof;
notwithstanding I be able thank you for your good will; and
if I happen to fail in my enterprise, you shall make no better
witness of your words, then I can say by to my own adventure
ture, to receive the honour lost by me; for which cause, we will
to beguile the tediousness of travel, you shall accompany me
to the Temple. So willing the Portuguese and other gallo-
ners to stay in the Castle, Palmerdo, Ozalio, Ritarano, Lec-
cio, and the rest of the knights being all well armed, set for-
ward the Temple, many of the Island travelling with them
to guide them the way, and doe other needfull services.

Now had Palmerdo caused to be made by some fellows sub-
till working, a coat of Arms, composed of many and other like
clannish mixtures, wherewith he covered all his Armour, that
the sharp bottles and fumes of the Woe might have no pow-
er to hurt him; and in this coat they rode on together. Being
at length come to a convenient place, which was within sight
of the Temple, he beheld the double thorny plain, which made
him doubt how he should get thither with his horse. Yet re-
solute for all chances, he takes an Iron spore that he brought
from the Giants Castle, and so forward goes to the Temple,
desiring all his companions that not one of them should fol-
low him; wherewith Ozalio and Ritarano were somewhat af-
fected; yet being left to do as he commanded, they stay-
ed using hearty and zealous imprecations for his good success.

Palmerdo making way with his spore through the en-
chanted briers aspired all night before him, who presently win-
ded a mighty hoze, at the sound wherof the ugly and mon-
strous Woe came forth of his den, and ran before the

ple gate there slaying for *Palmendos*, with such horrible grinning of his fangs, as the very sight thereof was sufficient to fray a man of good courage. By this time the Prince gained a convenient place by the Temple side, when beholding the cruel beast come running fiercely towards him, he commended himselfe to the heavens, and fell to his work. So thick as hail flew the enchanted darts from the Boar at the Prince; but the coat of mail so confounded their strength, as they could not pierce his Armour, which only had been the death of many knights before. But the Prince gave the beast such a sound stroke with the spear on the head, as he staggered to and from, unable to sustain himself; and following this good advantage, he hit the Boar so deep down his throat, as casting forth a great deal of blood upon the Prince, at length he tumbling down on his side, when half a dozen good strokes with the spear, made himself for stirring any more. And although this was a natural Boar yet had he been devilishly incanted and brought into that place by the Devils power; as the Lions were that killed the Duke of Ferrara: this Boar was appointed by him to guard his treasure in the Temple, which (as you hear) was slain by the hand of *Palmendos*. And even as the Boar of Calidon, that was sent to torment the whole Country, was by the valour of *Melager*, who after made a present of his head to the fair *Alceida*, as a notable experience of his magnanimity; in like sort did the Prince of Charlin, as a remembrance to all that should come thither, cut off the Boar's head, and as a trophie of his victory set it out a pillar in the same place where he obtained it. He had not now to reap off his coat of mail, which was well laden with the Boar's darts; but he saw the Knight of the Hoorn come towards him with a huge spear in his hand, saying, Unhappy was thy committing (Knight) into this Desert, when thou wast by the devils with thy dearest blood. Here with he gave the Prince such a cruel blow, as made him for one minute to the ground, and so long endured the sharp fight between them, as they both being fat spent and overlaboured, fell down to the ground, not able to rise themselves,

In short time recovering strength, arose, and seeing his enemy was not to be found, boldly went to enter the Temple, the gates whereof stood now wide open, which greatly augmented his desire to enter. Being come within the porch, two Images of brass stood on either side, who with monstrous trumpets blew such fearful wind on him, as he was thrice or four times carried forth again therewith: but pressing on still with all the strength he had, he got such sure footing within the Temple, as he felt no more of that violent wind. Passing for- ward in the body of the Church, he came to the magnificent Sepulchre wherein the Duke of Feris and the high Priestess daughter were interred, which was so rich, sumptuous, and rarely invented, as he had never seen the like before.

Having read the Epitaph he espied the sword wherewith the most perfect Damocles in love had slain her self; then mounting on the bars that environed the Tomb, he took the sword in his hand, and in remembrance of the accident, as also for the beauty thereof, he hung the same at his girdle determining to take it with him and so walked thither to find out the treasure. At length he came to the Sanctuary, where stood the ancient costly Altar for the sacrifice, having thereon an Idol of massie gold upon the head whereof was a most rich Imperial Crown, and in his right hand a Scepter so curiously framed, that it was impossible to see Jewels of greater price. In the Idols other hand was a Book fast sealed with four great buckles of gold; and in such a marvellously costly Chair was the Image set as nature her self would have been driven into admiration, to behold a matter of such surpassing excellency. All about the Altar stood many Basins of Gold, and before it hung divers images of silver with lighted Lamps, from whence came such a sweet smell of Myrrhe and other Aromatick drugs, and the light caused the precious Stones in the Idol so to glister, as it would have ravished any eye to note the Majesty thereof. Palmendos carried away with contemplating this sight, and not able to withdraw his eye from gazing thereon: at length beheld the dark night to draw on, the Lamps in this holy conclave having so beguiled him.

wherefore he concluded not to depart thence till the morning, that he might behold the singularities of the place.

CHAP. IX.

What illusions appeared to *Palmendos* in the Temple, one whereof resembled the beauty of *Francelina*, wherewith hee had a great deale of talke, and how *Oxalis* with the other Knights came and found him.

Almendos sate downe on a curious pillar intending to repose himselfe till the next morning, but immediately he heard such a bzaute and rumour, as though the whole world had been in one moment assembled. Whereupon he arose, and couragiously drawing his sword (because he doubted some ambush or new charge) went directly to the Sepulchre of the Duke, where he beheld a Damosell with her hair about her ears, and all her garments soyled with blood, which very sight grieved him to the heart. This was the shadow and representation of the Priests daughter, who after she had delibered many bitter sighs, with a voyce hollow and trembling, thus spake.

Am I not moze wretched and unfortunate, then any other under the Globe of heaven? yea questionless, seeing the fatall Destinies hath appointed me to endure perpetuall cruell and rigorous martyrdomes, for thy sake noble Duke of Fecia, the only record of mine afflicted soul, for whom love took such prejudice on me, as I feared not to offend my selfe with mine own hand. But who hath robbed me of my sword, that so suddenly made the sad execution of my life? Ah *Palmendos*, think not to carry it away so lightly, for that sword is yet moze necessary for me. With these words she ran violently upon him, and shooke him as if she would have tozned him in pieces: at which instant there arose such a thunder and trembling of the earth, as he thought verily the Temple would have sunk, and the foure elements resolve and turne into their former state of Chaos. By reason whereof the Prince could not continue

his magnanimous and wonted vigour, but fell down deprived of his understanding, as though pale death had taken possession of him. During this trance, a fair virgin richly accoutred (whom the old woman that told him of so many things at Tharsus, had sent thither by her Post) came and took him by the hand, saying. Arise Palmendos my noble Lord, and come to her, who seeing the fearfull state wherein you are, only by fantasies represented to your eyes, do intreat you not to disable your herotical and noble courage, at the sight of vain and fantastical visions, for it becometh not so good and accomplished knights, as you are, in such sort to passe through strange adventures: Be of good chear then, and repute this hour of your renewing, to surpass all the bravest men in the world; because since the essence of this enchantment, no knight could enter this Temple but you alone. Wherefore by good reason ought the treasure to be yours, which hath so long time been concealed here: take hence then the Golden Idol on the Altar, with all the other rich and precious jewels, and send them to the vertuous Emperour your Father. And for your sake shall this temple hereafter be frequent and accessible for any, which you shall consecrate to the name of Christ, and of the treasure you shall yet find, you shall erect a Monastery of Virgins, in honour of that incontaminate Maiden, that brought the Saviour of all mankind into the world, who hath given you strength to run through these actions, that this place may be reverently and devoutly used, which heretofore hath been blasphemed with Idolatry contrary to the bounty inexpressible, making to sink all men vows, offerings, and sacrifices. And albeit you are not as yet a Christian, yet for my sake enter that unpotted faith for the time will come, wherein you shall sundry times say, happy was that hour wherein you found me. Having taken good order for all that I have said, contain your self no longer in these Countries, because in other climates, is reserved a triumphall Scepter for you, intreated with honour and eternall praises.

In balne it were to ask, if Palmendos was filled with great marvell hearing the damosels voyce, who came to comfort

him in this auſtere calamity, and could ſo well decipher his aſſaires, for the extaſie and raviſhment of his ſpirit, which evidently appeared in his countenance, delivered ample teſtimony thereof. For were theſe words any thing elſe but fuel to encreaſe loves fire already burning: nevertheleſſe, ſeeing himſelf in a place ſo commodious, where freely he might hold chat with this Damoſel, he called up his ſpirits, and boldly made this answer. Adam, for the reverend honour you bear to your God, conceal not who you are that know me ſo well intreating you to pardon my preſumptuous request, becauſe your rare and perfect beauty, which is the only ſpur to my deſire, hath confounded me with greater admiration then all the ſtrange ſights I have yet beheld; all which (in reſpect of your excellence) I hold as diabolicall and ſcibolous; for you ſeem celeſtial & ſent by the Gods into theſe nether Regions, where having diſcovered the future event of my deſtinies, my heart hath thereby received incredible joy and contentment. We not abaſhed courteous Knight (quoth he) at any thing I have ſaid, for it is long ſince I knew what I have uttered, and in regard of your worthy valour, I love and eſteem yee above all other in the world, ſo that I have left the Countries of my originall onely to ſee and tell yee what I have done, deſiring you to excuſe me in the reſt, as concealing of inbence and what I am, becauſe at this time you cannot be ſatisfied therewith, yet ere it be long we will meet again and then ſhall you underſtand moze of me, by one request I muſt make to you, which as yet may not be maniſteſted. Wonderful will that conſolation be (quoth the Prince) to me, that you will command any thing wherein I may expreſſe my forces, and in that devotion, I have vowed evermoze faithfully to continue your friend: offering in witneſſe of this obeplance, to ſerve henceforth as your Knight, with promiſe not to prejudice the leaſt of your commandments, ſo long as my ſtars give me leave to breathe. For will I further preſſe you to tell me what you are, ſeeing your will ſtandeth not thereto: but till that gracious houre of commandment come, I will accompliſh your appointment, erecting here a Monaſtery of virgins for the

the service of your God, and your words have made me thirst with unquenchable desire, till I be resolved as concerning that faith. While she returned many thanks for his friendly offers, the old woman arrived who made him enamoured with the love of *Francelina* in his Realm: she taking the *Damosell* by the hand said, Go with me faire daughter, and leave this most discourteous Knight, who suffered me to be misused before him in *Tharsus*: whereof I hope to take sufficient revenge, by the extreme passions his heart shall endure hereafter.

So sooner had she ended these words, but immediately they both vanished away, wherewith the Prince greatly admiring was driven into such a profound conceit of her rare beauty, as he thought even there to yield up his Ghost, because he imagined never to have seen her like. Herein his judgement was no whit beguiled, for he did as many young Ladies doe, shew themselves favourable Judges in their own causes.

Now enters he into conceit, because the old woman had taken her away, that this *Damosell* was *Francelina*, the whom he had so lively imprinted in his heart, as for her love he had left his native Country. Thus compassed with griefe on every side, entered into these terms. Alas old woman, I know not what thou maist be, yet very true doe I find thy words: but small to my abail did *Ozako* smite thee in my presence, that I must requite with so long, irksome and lingring penance. Ah cruell enemy, why didst thou rob mine eyes so soon of their unspeakable content: thou sufferest me to see, that my love might grow the more immeasurable; but thy words were such daggers to my heart, as never can I taste a sharper cozillbe. And if this were the object of *Francelina* (for fairer creature did the Sun never shine upon) at no time shall my soul enjoy rest, till once more I have seen her againe. Thus entercoursing a thousand opinions, he stood a long time as driven to the Antipodes, accusing himself with base pusillanimity, and blaming the old woman who had so robbed him of his forces, as he could not stay the Lady with him, by whose presence and gracious speeches, he supposed himself in an eternal beatitude.

But now is the cloudy night chased toward the Occident, when he determined to effect what the Damosel had commanded him; and going to the Altar, he took the golden Basins and the other sumptuous things, making them ready to be carried thence, disposing likewise the Jewel of the Crowne, Scepter and Booke. But as he would have lifted the Image forth of the chaire, he found it so heaue as he was not able to stirre it: wherewith he being offended, said; And I shall doe thee more honour then thou hast yet receiued of me; so lifting up his Face, he made it fall in peeces to the ground. From out the body of the Image, flew a very strange bird all black, giuing such fearfull shrikes and cries, as the Prince was thereat amazed: and following her out of the Temple, he beheld a great many more such like Birds with her, they flying altogether with that noyse, the same way where Ozalio and his Knights attended, whereat they likewise marveling were certified by the men of the Island, that this prodigious signified Palmendos entrance into the Temple; for they had heard before, by sundry learned Pigmancers, that these were certaine infernall spirits which should be chased forth of the Countrey, when the adventure of the Temple was finished, Rifarano, Ozalio, and all the Knights glad of this news, went where they beheld the monstrous wild Bore, and thence to the Temple, where Ozalio first found the Prince opening a great chest, which contained the Priests principall treasure, consisting of such rare and inestimable Jewels, as (it was thought) the like was neuer scene before. Palmendos beholding his friend Ozalio, ran and embraced him marvellous kindly, the like did he to Rifarano, Lecesin, and the rest, all of them extolling the happy starre that guided the Prince; and he acquainted them with all things since his departure from them, saving his conference with the Damosel, because none of them should suspect his love. When intreated by Guillardor to send for some skillfull man, who might undertake to reuise and build the Monastery: In short time the greater part of the Clergie was sent for, and among them to a virtuous man of speciall knowledge, he gave the charge and

and superintendance of the worke, as also bountifull store of Gold and Silver which was taken out of the Priests wealthy Chest. All things he committed to the trust of Guillardor, that the Temple, Monastery, and wayes thereto, should be done in decent order : but he whose heart was onely dedicated to the Ladies beauty, which appeared unto him under forme of a bodily illusion, took small delight in any thing else but in her gracious and divine remembrance.

Now did he hasten the day of his departure, desiring Risarano and Lecchin to make speed to the Emperour, and present the Gyantesse, her Daughter, and the other Prisoners to him, as also all the Treasure was found in the Temple from a strange Gentleman religiously vowed to his service : who in respect of great affaires that called him else where, could not come to kisse his Majesties hand, which he will doe with all speed possible, Risarano and Lecchin, were loth to leave Palmendos, but seeing it must needs be so, they soon after conveyed the Gyantesse and her Daughter on shipboard, they making great mone to be carried from the Island. In the same Ship was the Crowne, Scepter, Image, Weapons, and all the other Treasure carried, and in another Ship the Prisoners found in the Castle on the promontory, with all things else expedient for the voyage : Then Risarano and Lecchin taking their leave of Palmendos and Ozalio, went on board where the Gyantesse and the Treasure was, commanding their anchors to be weighed, their sayles hoisted, the wind then serving fit and favourable, and so are they sailing toward Constantinople. As yet abode Palmendos in the Isle of Delphos, to see what Guillardors workmen would compass, in so great a worke as he had given them charge of.

CHAP. X.

How *Risarano* and *Leceshin* (with all their traine arrived in *Constantinople*, where they were honourably received by the Emperour and them of the Court, greatly marvelling at the newes he heard of *Palmendos*, and what afterward followed.



At what time *Risarano* and *Leceshin* should arrive at *Constantinople*, there were assembled many great Lords and Barons, in honour of a solemn Feast, which the Emperour made for the marriage of the Hungarian Prince *Direus* Son to King *Frysol*, and twin brother to *Bolcar*. *Direus* so soon as hee was armed Knight, went to the Emperours Court where he was woorthily welcommed, and albeit he was his Majesties Nephew, yet he loved him with a particular affection, his courteous and civil manners, toynd with his forwardnesse in armes, gave hope that he would prove a balliant Knight hereafter. He had not been long in the Emperours Court, and thoroughly acquainted with every one, but he grew enamoured with the beauty of *Esquivela*, daughter to the Soldan of *Babylon* and *Alchidiana*, so that being one day in the Chamber of his cousin *Philocrissa*, eldest daughter to the Emperour, revelling with her and her sister *Melicia* : he got such apt time and occasion, as he made his intent knowne to *Esquivela*, she modestly answering, that if he faithfully meant to make her his Wife, she would settle her choice upon him onely. *Direus* who was thereto resolved, desired the Emperour and Emperesse to grant that Marriage : they being willing to gratifie their Nephew, as also to preferre the young Princeesse, with the consent of King *Frysol*, affianced them together, and *Direus* fearing the Marriage would be deferred too long, solicited the Emperour in such sort, as he sent with all speed to make the same knowne to the Soldan.

In mean while his Majesty summoned the chiefest Lords of the Empire, to prepare a Triumph in honour of this feast, for the accomplishment whereof nothing wanted, save onely the Embassadors return that went to the Soldan.

But now are Rissarano and Lecisin entred the Haven of Constantinople, intending to land before the Emperour should know any thing of them, because they came not in such equipage as happily he would expect. Being then all armed, except with their Helms, they rode through the City but with two Squires onely that brought their Lances and Helms, they being wonderfully noted of every one, and reputed for some strange Lords of great birth, and in this sort they came to the Palace, where very boldly they would have entred, but the guard stayed them, to understand the cause of their coming. We are, quoth they, two Knights of Countreies farre hence distant, and hither we came to see and serve the Emperour Palmerin. You must then leave these offensive Arms, answered the Guard, if you mean to go where his Highnesse is: or else declare your proper names to us, that we may go see if it be his pleasure you shall come in this sort before him. Our Arms we will not leave said Rissarano, because it ill becomes an honest Knight so to do: but you may go certifie his Majesty, that here is Lecisin son to the Soldan of Persia, and the Prince of Zephira, in whose company is Rissarano, Son to the Emperour Trineus of Almain, who humbly desire to kisse his Highnesse hand. His Majesty had no sooner notice of their names, but (in exceeding contentation) he sent his son Primaleon with divers other Knights, to entertain them as desired: and the two Princes seeing every one give place to him that came foremost, immediately they reputed him to be the Emperours son, whereupon they alighted, when Primaleon courteously embracing them said,

My Lords, you are more then welcome to my Fathers Court, his Majesty being not a little glad of your arrivall, so taking each of them by the hand, he conducted them into the great Hall, where the Emperour sat in his chair attending their coming, and then approaching the State, made offer to

kisse his Highness hand, but he took them in his Arms, and would not suffer them saying. know my good cousins, that I account my self greatly indebted to you, in that you would forsake your own Countries to visit me so far off, and that I may not fail in the use of your names, let me understand which of you is Rifarano, albeit you both stand equal in my grace and labour: yet being singularly desirous to continue my love to the Princess Zephira, I must consequently esteem and effect all that come from her. On the other side, as well for the indissoluble amity, intirely grounded in our young years between the Emperour Trineus and me, as also in regard of the alliance united between us: I am constrained to love his lineage and posterity, and thus I would have you both persuaded, that greater good could not happen to me, then the sight of them they esteem so dearly. Heaven so prosper and favour you in all things, as they have thoroughly comforted my spirits, by the very hearing of my good Friends and confederates the Solban and Zephira, whose health I pray you remember me of, for it is long since I heard any thing from them.

My Lord, answered Rifarano, at what time we departed Persia, we left their persons in most safe disposition, and they by us (humbly kissing your Majesties hand) have sent this Letter in sign of the reverence and love they bear you: now for they could not themselves come so far, they have sent this Prince their son named Lecefin, in their stead to do any serviceable duty in your royal Court. As for my self, I am Rifarano, son to Aurecinda, expressly leaving my Countrey to have knowledge of your excellency, and with my uttermost endeavours to follow your service: craving this license, that I may go to the Emperour Trineus my father, whose son I account my self not onely happy to be, but greatly accuse my self of ingratitude, that I have so long time deferred this voyage. Lecefin kissing the Letter, upon his knee delibered it to the Emperour which he commanding to be opened, took and read as followeth,

*The Letter of Zephira, wife to the Soldan of Persia, to the
Emperour Palmerin.*

To the right happy and most fortunate Prince, *Palmerin d'O-
liva*, mirror of courtesie, and surpassing all good Knights;
Zephira wife to the Soldan of Persia, perpetual vowed friend
to your imperial Majesty, kisseth your Highness hand, wi-
shing your increase in all felicity.

K Now (most noble Emperour) that the long and behe-
ment affection of my son *Lecisin* to see Constantinople,
only to offer you his service, and behold the magnificence of
your Court; hath caused the Soldan my husband and me,
now to send him in company of *Risarano*, Sonne to the Em-
perour *Trineus*, to satisfy the desire they had, in visiting you
on our behalf. And albeit they deserved greater royalty for
such a voyage, yet would they have no other company then
thirty Knights: knowing that ostentation in them, would not
purchase them the more estimation at your hands, and there-
fore they come no otherwise accoutred. Notwithstanding
if the sincere amity you evermore shewes me, hath acquaint-
ed you with the inward integrity of my heart, whereby you
have designed me place among your most affectionate friends:
I beseech you in regard of that zeal, to entertaine these two,
and accept of this present, as coming from the hand of her,
who hath not her equal in good will to your excellency. And
to witness by bounden duty in acceptation hereof, I vow both
me and mine evermore to your obedience: persuading my
self that your wonted debonaire courtesie, will not suffer me
disdaind in the offer that I make.

The most obedient of your Friends,
Zephira Soldaneffa of Persia.

For this gentle Letter from the Soldan and *Zephira*, the
Emperour gave *Lecisin* their Son many thanks, again and
again

again welcoming him to the Court, then turning to Rifarano he said. I well perceive my Lord Rifarano, that you are the undoubted Son of the Emperour Trineus because you so lively resemble him in face, well have you done to come to be so good a Father, and the more so I thank God for your arrival here at this time when we intend to hold open Court, to honour the approaching marriage of our beloved cousin : and so please ye to stay the intended Triumphe here shall you see Hosts of worthy Knights, that mean to tempt Fortune for the Garland of honour.

This news dread Lord, answered Rifarano, are not a little welcome to us, in respect that next the principal point of our voyage, which was to kiss your Majesties hand : we were desirous to behold the valour of your Knights, for their renown is spread through the whole world, and now we shall well witness the same, commencing at a time so apt for the purpose. Nor can we forget a worthy Knight whom we met in our journey, being named Palmendos, without his second or match in martiall affairs, and I think there is no one man living, except your Highness the mirror and Paragon of chivalry, that worthily may be equalled with him : Right sorry are we, because we can deliver no better knowledge of the man, by reason of his desire to passe unknown, and therefore concealeth himself in all places where he tra-velleth. This famous man (right noble Lord) humbly kisseth your highness hand, having sent you such rare and inestimable riches, as when you have seen them, you will judge that the like present was never given to any King or Emperour, as we are to present your Majesty withall from this unknown Knight. The charge of this message we undertook in that our selves with others other Knights were delivered from the cruel bondage of Baledon, the Giant in the Isle of Delphos, where we endured miseries, not fit to be recounted in this gracious assembly. Yet the heavens gave Palmendos power to kill this Tyrant : after which victory, he hath seized the Island subject to your Majesty, until you send some such Governour or Lieutenant as best liketh you : wherewithall,

as testimony of this honourable victory, he hath sent you the wife and daughter to the Giant to dispose of them as shall seem best in your wisdom. Hereto he added the whole discourse of the Temple, and how Palmendos had ended the enchanted adventure thereof. Without doubt (quoth the Emperor, being dithen into great admiration) I cannot imagine who this worthy knight should be, for if he have ended such a weighty enterprize, it must needs follow that he is peerless in Chivalry; and if it be his fortune to see our Court, I shall requite him with all the honour I can: but tell me, is he a Moor, or a Christian?

A Moor, boyn as I think (answered Rissarano) notwithstanding he well understandeth this language; and such is his brave constitution of body, as I think a more gallant Gentleman was never seen. But may it please your Majesty to send for the wife of Baledon, and her daughter, as also the rich present abiding in your port: The Emperour requiting them with many thanks, sent for the prisoners to be brought on Land, commanding the two Princes to be unarmed and sent them two costly Turkish robes, which his son Primaleon and Nicreus saw effectually executed, with all things else necessary for men of such calling: In mean while he sent for the Empress and his daughters to behold the rare and precious treasure sent by Palmendos.

When the Empress and her daughters were come into the Hall, they entertained the strange knights exceeding courteously, but Leccia regarding the beauty of Philocrista, grew into such conceits of her singular feature, as she stood in his thoughts beyond all compare. She with her sisters Florida, Bazilia, and Melicia, for so were the Emperours daughters named) gave them a maidens welcome to the Court, such as befemed them towards knight errant, as also because they were Princes of so honourable a birth. After that, the Dianteis, her daughter, and the rest of the prisoners through a mighty throng of people, were brought to the Wallace, one of the Knights in behalf of all the rest, kneeling before the Emperour, thus spake,

Myghty

Mighty and invincible Monarch, the hardy Champion and flower of Knights, named *Palmendos*, who delivered us from cruel *Baledon*, in the Isle of *Delphos*, hath sent us (with this inestimable of treasure) unto your Majesty, as to the onely Lord and Prince of the world, of whom he carrieth most humble and religious opinion, that you would take compassion on our miseries, and grant us access to our own Houses. Good friends, said the Emperour, your honest report of this Knight, to whom I am so much beholding, doth make me more earnestly long to see him in our Court: whither you all (for his sake) are so heartily welcome, as ye shall well perceive the same before ye depart: afterward (in Gods name) go when you please. And these were not words alone, but deeds did confirm the same the Emperour rewarding each one of them with such liberal gifts, as they esteemed his largesse and munificence equal with that of *Xerxes*, *Julius Cæsar*, or *Alexander the great*. Afterward he sent for the *Giantess* and her daughter, and to them offered very honourable kindness: but their hearts were so swollen and confounded with grief, as they would make no answer at all: whereupon he appointed them a convenient place in the City with provision of all things for their necessary uses: but the *Giantess* falling into an extreme lunacy, died soon after thereof: yet her daughter became a Christian, and lived long time in the Emperours favour.

Now are all the sumptuous utensils brought before his Majesty, the Idols Chair, his Crown the Scepter; Book and the rest, which being well and advisedly regarded, were judged the like never to be seen before: whereupon his Majesty took the Book labouring with all his strength and cunning to open the same, and after delivered it to his Barons to try what they could do, but all their labour being lost, he said, I think this Book can be opened by none other then him only that conquered it; let it therefore be carefully kept till his coming: Now call I to mind the *Damocles* words, that departed suddenly without answer; and verely I am perswaded, this Knight is the man she spake of, who hath sent us this treasure from the Isle of *Delphos*.

With these speeches of the Emperour, divers of his Knights grew somewhat offended, to hear such commendations passe on him who was unknown; wherefore they intended if ever he came thither, to make such proof of his valour and prowess, as the Emperour should perceive he spake but by affectation. Not long after, his Majesty sent one of his chief Knights to Delphos, and with him such a train as befitted the expedition, there to see all things ordered to his highness use, and to prevent insurrections, if any were like to grow; giving the Knight charge if he found Palmendos there, to request him with all speed to visit the Emperour. But the Knight came short of his intent, for he had set sail towards Constantinople, according as you shall hear hereafter: Notwithstanding the Knight was very graciously welcomed thither, and the possession of the whole Island surrendered to him, which in the end was transferred to one of Palmendos sons, being a pleasant, fair and opulent Countrey, navigable for all passengers whatsoever.

CHAP. IX.

How Palmendos sailing in the Ægean Sea, recovered the Soldan of Babilons Son from Ocurites King of Culaquin, who rode along that Coast of Greece: And how after he had overcome his strength, he took him prisoner, and sent him to the Emperour Palmerin, with divers Christians which he delivered from his Captivity.



Rifarano and Lecchin being no sooner set from Delphos, but Palmendos followed the speedy building of the Monastery, causing religious observations to be used in the Temple: for the people of the Island were good Christians, although the Giant Baledon was a Pagan. The Monastery being stor'd with fair Virgins, he would have them called the Sisters of Francelina, and many Ladies of great birth resorted thither to live religiously in service.

service of the worlds Creator: *Palmendos* much delighted to behold the Christians Religion, meaning when time and place served to be further instructed therein.

Being ordered every thing to his own contentment, and placed *Guillador* in Justice till the Emperour sent some other: he with *Ozalis* took shipping, sailing six dayes with prosperous winds towards Constantinople, yet first he determined to Land in Thrace, because he would hear some news of the Emperours Court, and of *Francelina* if possible he could, Riding thus with the favour of *Aeolus* and *Neptune*, he came within sight of the two destroyed towns *Sefios* and *Abidos*, when one of the Pilots certified him, that he saw others ships and Foists eagerly fighting together, which made *Palmendos* to come up on the deck to see if he could discern what they were. Hearing the great tumult and cry made in the vessels, especially in two that seemed better provided for war then the other: he was desirous to go more near them, wherefore he commanded the master so to do, that they might help them which too much were oppressed. Now to acquaint you with the cause hereof, it is so, that when the Soldan of Babylon and *Alchidiana* understood the marriage intended by the Emperour, between their daughter and *Ditreus* Prince of Hungaria, they were very joyful of so great alliance, and therefore would send them great store of riches by their youngest son, who had not yet received his order of Knighthood. This young Prince was named *Abenunco*, a gentle youth, and very well given, who earnestly intreated his mother, to obtain so much of the Soldan his father, that after his sisters marriage, he might stay a while at Constantinople, which late at her request the Soldan granted, and therefore sent him by sea well accompanied with Knights, *Abenunco* sailing along the coast of Thrace, met with *Ocurites* King of Culaquin, who was son in law to the great *Tuch*, and reputed the hardiest Knight among all the Turkish Nobility: his Majesty having given his daughter in marriage to this Barbarian, she being one of the most accomplished Ladies an all Heathenesse. *Ocurites* knowing the inveterate malice between

between the Emperour and his Father in law (the more to please him) provided himself of good strength by sea, and daily came upon the coasts of Greece, sending vauntcunriers with strong Brigandines befoze him, to discover what Christians stered abroad, and sundry times took many of them captives, as now he intended to do by the Soldans son. When Ocurites by the streamers and banderolls heard of the Babylonian Prince, and knew (withall) that his father was a chief friend to the Emperour: in great fury with his ships he set upon him, Abchunco with his knights defended themselves so well as they could. During this conflict Palmendos approached very near them, and of a Galley filled with Christian slaves, he demanded the cause of this fierce encounter.

Sir, answered one of the slaves, he to whom this great train of shipping appertaineth, is Ocurites King of Culaquin, and son to the great Turk, that with others of his league and faction daily coasts on Greece, to endamage the Emperour Palmerin, enemy to his Father, and those he hath now met withal, belonging to the Soldan of Babylon, they sailing (as we understand) toward Constantinople. When the Prince heard what the Christian had said, he bravely encouraged his cousin Ozalio, in assisting the well-willers to the noble Emperour: so coming to the Kings ship he thus spake.

For what thou Ocurites offendest so good a Prince, as is the Emperour of Constantinople, herewith he began to lay about him valiantly, and Ozalio not one inch behind him, made the enemy well understand his invincible courage. Palmendos knowing the King by his rich Armour, gave him such a puissant stroke with the hilt of his Sword on the Helmet, as made him stagger, and at length fall down, when offering to rise again, Palmendos caught him so strongly by the Helmet, as he puld it violently from off his head, keeping him still under his Sword in such subjection, as at length he was carried prisoner into the Princes Cabin, and there committed him to the charge of four trusty knights. In mean while Ozalio fought with the Kings brother, who understanding that Ocurites was taken prisoner, did what he could to reco-

bet him again; but Ozalio kept between him and his purpose, still labouring him with so many hardy strokes, as at length he smote his head from his shoulders. The rest beholding their King taken, and his brother slain, beside the great massacre made among them, and that they were not able to withstand their fortune: a number fell headlong to the sea, rather then they would die under the enemies sword. Palmendos seeing no further resistance: but that the Turks were utterly discomfited: he caused such Prisoners as were taken to be made sure, the ships likewise to be seized on as his own: then coming to Ozalio, whose forwardness he commended, he willed him to see all things disposed as befemed such a victory: afterward he embraced the Soldans son, and divers courteous ceremonies passing between them, the one say his happy deliverance, the other reported what he had done was for the Emperours sake, at length Palmendos used these speeches.

My Lord, willingly would I bear you company to Constantinople, but that a voyage of great importance both urgently call me to another place, yet seeing you are delivered from the Tyrant Ocurites, and all your knights in sufficient safety, let me obtaine this favour at your hands, to take the King with you to Constantinople, and all the Christian prisoners delivered from captivity. Whem shall you present on my behalf to the Emperour Palmerin, requesting that this ancient Christian enemy may be safely kept, until I come to see his Majesty, which shall be with all the expedition I can. **Worthy** Sir answered Abenuneco, it grieves me that your journey lies not presently to Constantinople, because I should think my self happy in having your company, being the man to whom I am continually bound for my life and liberty: and hereof I am assured, that oyer and above your gracious welcome, you shall win the honour of the famous triumph, ordained by the Emperour at the marriage of my sister with the Prince of Hungaria.

And heartily sorry I am, answered Palmendos, that I cannot be present in so worthy an assembly: whereof at this time you may well excuse me, not doubting but I shall come
with

with some sufficient amends for my stay. These speeches he uttered, his thoughts being farre otherwise, for so soon as he heard of the *Knights* at *Constantinople* he determined to go thither secretly without making himself known to any, but as a strange Knight to adventure his fortune among others: wherefore he departed from *Abenunco* who offered him many rich presents for his great kindness, yet would not he accept of any. *Abenunco* returned him many thanks chiefly for his promise, that he would in short time visit the Emperour in person; so after many courteous speeches, and sundry familiar farewells, *Palmendos* commanded his Pilot to lanch into the high Seas, for that he intended another kind of course.

CHAP. XII.

How Abenunco arrived at Constantinople, whose coming greatly rejoyced the Emperour, but much more his Sisters Esquivela. And how Lynedes Lord of the Isle of Lique, and the County of Pelada his Cousin, came to fight against the Knights of the Court, attending the Journey for the marriage of Ditreus.



Reatly did *Abenunco* commend his fortune, in finding so good succour at a time of such necessity; and all the Knights in his company held opinion that *Palmendos* was the onely flower of Chivalry: but above all other the Christian states, accounting their deliverance for a miracle, imagined the author thereof was some great friend to the Emperour. In this joy they sailed till they came to *Constantinople*, where his Majesty being advertised that the Soldans son was arrived, commanded *Primajeron*, *Ditreus*, and many of his best Barons to go and conduct him to the Court. In the mean while *Abenunco* cloathing himself most sumptuously, caused the King Ocurices and the Christian prisoners to be carried on shore, that he might not fail in the charge given him by *Palmendos*: So

the Babylonien Prince rising to the Court, with all the prisoners going orderly before him he gave charge to one of his chiefest Knights, that he should present them to his Majesty: and being come into the Emperors presence, the Knights delivered these speeches.

High and mighty Monarch of the world, behold here the King of Culaquin, son to the great Turk, who keeping the seas with a great power to enuamage your Empire, our Master the Prince Abenunco and we fell into his danger; from which a worthy Knight named Palmendos, by deeds of rare and haughty chivalry delivered us in a time most needful, and therefore hath sent both of us and him to your excellency, desiring that Ourities should be safely kept till he come himself. These sundry good turns receiued from a Knight unknown, drowe the Emperoz into a wonderful admiration: and because he could not imagine whence they should proceed, therefore he was the more desirous to behold the Knight; whereupon he committed the King to a strong Tower, commanding he should have all things necessary for his health, and a Page to attend on him lest he should offend himself.

But now is Abenunco by Primaleon and the other Princes brought to the Emperoz, who embracing him very honourably in his arms, gave him such entertainment as becomed his estate, and because he was not yet knighted, he wished that he should be bed fellow to his son Primaleon, which united a faithfull League of Amity between them, hoping one day to travel as companions in Arms together. Abenunco having like wise told the Emperoz of his good successe and wonderfull deliverance by the means of Palmendos, gave no little contentment to Risarano and Lecesin, who imagined themselves as much beholding to the Prince as any. Afterward he was conducted to the Emperesse chamber, where she and her Ladies graciously welcomed him, but especially the Princesse Esquivela his sister, because he came to confirme what she most desired. My Lord and brother (quoth she) nothing could happen to my greater contentment, then to have your presence in the honour prepared for me; whereto seeing our

our gracious parents could not come, they have for my sake sent you in their place; and doubt not but your entertainment shall be such as shall agree with their expectation and your own worthiness. Fair sister (answered Abenunco) the Soldan our father hearing of the honour the Emperour intended, by giving us in marriage to the Prince Dicreus his Nephew, hath sent me to thank the Emperour on his behalf, offering for this contract to articulate with his Majesty, in all such things as with honour he shall demand. As for our gracious mother, Alchidiana, she hath sent you by me jewels and treasure befitting your degree, that on your marriage day you may witness the royal race from whence you are descended: not doubting but before you depart this Court, to make the magnificence of the Babylonian Prince so famous as the most opulent Lord of Asia shall not compare therewith.

Divers other speeches passed between the brother and the sister, till the Coffers of treasure were brought and delivered to the Princess: which when Dicreus beheld, he judged them to exceed the limits of all frugality, and might full well besem the greatest state in Christendome. Now did the Emperour cause the Journey to be openly proclaimed, and the fifth day following the marriage was solemnized, great store of worthy knights resorting day by day to the Court, that all the field appointed for Triumphs was covered over with Tents. Among other came thither Lynedes, the Lord of Lique, he that hazarded himselfe so farre in the adventure of Francelina, being (in sooth) reputed one of the most valiant men at arms in all Greece; and the renown of this marriage drew him from his Castle, accompanied only with the Countie of Pelada, his cousin who albeit he was younger then Lynedes, yet was he thought little inferior to him in Chivalry. This Countie had espoused a Lady of great Parentage and loved her with such singular affection, as he brought her in company to see the Jests at Constantinople.

Being there arrived, they would not enter the City, but set up their Tent far distant from all the rest, and afterward sent a Squire to the Court, to publish that whosoever would

would hazard himself in the Journey, would find two knights there ready in the field, that would just with any one that durst enter the lists; such therefore as were minded to make proof of their valour, might be entertained for three or four courses. These speeches being heard by the Duke of Pera, he went to the Squire, and thus answered.

You may (my friend) returne to your Masters, and say, that such as are minded to just, will not stay long before they enter the field. Then turning to the knights of the Court, he proceeded in this manner. Doubtless these knights are valiant and hardy, that are loth to shew themselves slothfull in any vertuous exercise. With this answer the Squire returned back to the Tent, and the two Cousins, being satisfied therewith, prepared strong Lances at the entrance of their Habillion, for all such as should come to just against them: But the Countie intreated Lynedes to suffer him to make the first tryal of his fortune, which he did in regard of his love to his Lady, who had caused the Tent to be so commodiously placed, as the night at pleasure behold all the pastimes, decking her self in most gorgeous attyre, and bravely attended on by her waiting woman to out countenance such as came against her Lord and Husband.


The Emperour understanding what message the Squire had brought, imagined that these two knights were Palmendos and his Cousin Ozalio; for when one thing continually beateth on a mans conceit, he imagineth every thing conformable to the same. Wherefore he told his opinion to the Prince Rifarano, who could not think them to be the Lords of Tharlis, yet to satisfie the Emperours mind, he mounted on horse-back, and being accompanied with other knights of the Court, rode to the Tent, where the two Cousins remained. Saluting the Squires, he entred, finding Lynedes unarmed, but his Cousin was provided at all points except his helmet: whereupon he demanded if they were the knights that sent the challenge to the Court? To whom the Lord of Lique answered, that they were. Then Rifarano proceeded thus. Gentlemen, ye have attempted a thing (in my opini-
on)

on) but little for your ease; but I think you did it to this end, that you might meet with some one to abate your pride and presumption;

When that cometh to passe (answered Lynedes) we shall but accompany many others, who unable to effect their haughty enterprizes have remained frustrate in their designs: in vain therefore shall you take any further care for our affairs; but if you will go arme your self, returne and prove what this knight can doe, who is more desirous to fight with his Sword then with his Tongue; otherwise you offer injury to the order, which every noble mind preferreth as his proper life. Rifarano somewhat moved with these words, took his leave, and returned to the Emperoz, assuring him that these knights were not Palmendos and Ozilio, notwithstanding they seemed good and hardy Champions, descended of some great birth, in that they were so worthily accompanied, with women of choice of singular beauty, as also of Gentlemen of civil behaviour. Hereupon many knights jousted with the Countie, who still bare away the honour of the field, Lynedes all this while not arming himself, for the worthy successe of his Cousin deserved high commendation, whereof his Lady was not a little proud, to see her husband performe such chivalry. Rifarano and Lecchin envying the Counties glory, intended to see how they should speed in the joust, yet they desired to defer it till the last day, when they vanquishing the Countie and Lynedes his cousin, might bear away the whole praise of the Triumph: but others came in the mean time and altered their intent, as you at large shall perceive hereafter.

CHAP. XIII.

How Arnedes Son to the King of France, and Ricinde his Cousin, Son to the King of Castile, came to Constantinole, where Arnedes vanquished Lynedes and his cousin in the Foist, by which occasion they were greatly honoured of the Emperour.

 **T**he King of France, father to Lewis Duke of Burgundy, being at the extreame point of his Life, among other things remembred, that when the peace was concluded between the Emperour Palmerin and him, they determined upon all alliance by marriage, if God granted them issue whereby to do it: to the end that in the heroical house of France, sons and daughters might be nourished, proceeding from such worthy Ancestors, as the like might not be found through the whole world.

For this cause, when the time likewise should conveniently agree therewith, he commanded his son to remember the Emperour of his promise; which Prince Lewis promising his dying father to performe, with exceeding sorrow accomplished his funerals, and making choice afterward for his own fancy, in hope to fulfil his fathers desire in his issue, he married with the daughter to the King of Castile, by whom he had three sons, and two daughters that were born at a birth. His eldest son was named Arnedes, whose mind was evermore given to arms and military discipline, wherein time and use made him so expert, as he was esteemed the onely champion of France: it came to pass, as the King of France married one of his daughters with the King of Sicily, at whose marriage Arnedes won such fame by his chivalry, as the report of him was blazed thorow many provinces. To this marriage likewise came one of his cousins, son to the King of Castile, and named Ricinde, who conceived to good liking of Arnedes behaviour, that they swore an inviolable league of amity between them twain never to forsake each others company in matters of Arms: wherewith the Queen was highly contented, because she loved her cousin Ricinde with intire affection.

King

King Lewis seeing his son Arnedes of years to have a wife, and fearing he should elsewhere dispose his liking, one day called him into his chamber, and thus conferred with him, My son such is the naturall inclination of my love towards thee, as I would not wish any thing to thee, but to have thee as well contented therewith as my self; to this end I use these speeches, so that our late Kingly father of famous memory, at the very shutting up of his latest dayes, gave me charge to join thee in marriage with the Emperors daughter of Constantinople, that such issue (as no doubt) shall proceed from you both, may somewhat resemble their famous Ancestors, Wherefore I am determined right soon to send an Embassage to him to sollicite this marriage, which I hope he will like well of, and this I can assure thee, if same tell no lessings that the Princess Philocrista now aged sixteen years, is a Lady of such rare and singular beauty, as nature had not framed her like under the moving of these eight Spheres.

When the Prince Arnedes saw that his Father talked so courteously with him about these affairs, he humbly intreated him not to travel any further in the matter, for there was time enough hereafter to deal in such occasions: wherewith the King pacified him, because he saw his son so cold (as he thought) in matter of marriage, nor would he trouble him any more therewith afterward. But the young Prince wife and advised in concealing his own desires, having long before heard fair Philocrista commended beyond compare, as also the deeds of the Knights in the Emperors Palmerins Court, he had no leisure now to forbid them his remembrance, so that soon would he compass a secret journey to Constantinople, intending if the Princess pleased to demand her of the Emperors in marriage and if his Majesty would not consent thereto, he intended to doe such exploits in Greece, as the honourable praise of them should compass his Love. This was the project of Arnedes resolution, which in secret he imparted to his cousin Recinde, who with mighty persuasions animated him therein: vowing that till Death they would Loyally continue Friendly companions, and so well govern

themselves by distinguishing their persons, and contrarying their languages in these affairs, as the most skillfull head should not search the depth of her intent. When the two cousins were thus determined, Arnedes imagining it no wise come to juggle with his father, went and requested a favour at his Highness hand, the effect whereof was this.

Gracious Lord and Father, quoth he, my desire is (without your displeasure) that I may go see the Princess Philocrista, as well to like as love before any motion of marriage: and because my cousin Recinde will bear me company, I would have your Majesty so perswaded, that in secret distinguishing we will pass unknown of any, much less give occasion of suspect what we are, not doubting but by our vertuous behaviour, to yield you content by our voyage, and our selves good report. Well, the world is well acquainted therewith that this Emperoz of Constantinople, had not won such fame and renown but onely by the innumerable Trophies, erected in others regions of his youthfull travels, which are examples sufficient for knights of high desire, not to desist from worthy enterprizes for the object of death, who without regard of time or place, pursue in ambush the steps of the worthiest. So, let doubt of our stay in Greece hinder us, god father: for as we go not to build any dwelling there, so is the hope of our returne to be expected more speedy. It greatly displeaseth me, answered the King, that I have promised to mine own discontentment, and which much more will redound to your disadvantage; but seeing I have past my word, and in this sort you mean personally to visit Greece, go in Gods name, who guide and send you safely home againe, else will your stay more hurt me then can you imagine.

Humbly taking his leave of the King because he would not have his departure known, he secretly got him to Marseilles accompanied with none but his cousin Ricinde, his dwarf and three other, where finding a ship ready they hoisted sail and away, landing at the first port they came to in Greece, and commanding the ship to stay for them at Constantinople. One day Arnedes and Recinde rested themselves where they land-

ed, and the next day rode forward on their journey, understanding by the way brave triumphs were ordained at the Court, which pleasing them not a little, they made such diligent speed, as they arrived there three days before the sports were ended, even at the very instant, when the Count had vanquished another Knight in the Joust. Arnedes beholding the brave behaviour of the Conqueror, and that the Knights made vainly who should try their fortune next, noting beside the honourable assembly there present with the Emperour (who marvelled what these two new Knights should be, until he had advisedly marked their Arms, when immediately he judged them to be Frenchmen) gave the spurs to his horse and ran against the Count, each of them breaking their staves gallantly without any further danger. At the second course the Count was unhorsed by Arnedes, whereat the Emperour and his Lords very much rejoiced, highly commending the behaviour of the French Knight. Pæds must we think, that Lynedes was offended seeing his cousin thrown so furiously to the ground, wherefore arming himself speedily and mounting on horseback, with a very strong Lance he angrily encountered Arnedes, who gave his enemy as good as he brought. Lynedes was very cholerick that he had sped no better, whereupon at the second race, Arnedes met him so full in the carrier, as he cast him out of the saddle over the crupper of his horse: he thinking to recover himself, and loth to forsake the reins of his bridle, caused his horse to fall backwards upon him, that he was the worse for this long time after. But Arnedes he remained fresh and frolick as though he had yet done nothing at all, wherefore he came to his companion, saying.

Now let us go kisse my Lord the Emperours hand, seeing there is no more to be done here: and so in the Wood they withdrew themselves, every one martelling at this Frenchmans valour, because they knew Lynedes was accounted one of the hardiest Knights in Greece. When the Emperour saw them comming toward him, he advanced himself to entertain them, and embracing them graciously in his arms, said, Right welcome

welcome are you Gentlemen in this Countrey, where you have exceedingly contented me by your fortunate success: let me therefore know of whence and what you are, that I may love and esteem you accordingly.

It is the wonted grace and vertue of your Majesty answered Arnedes, that makes you evermore regard poor travelling Knights, although their deserts be nothing equivalent; the renowne whereof spreading through all Regions, caused us to forsake France, to come and offer you our service. We are, my Lord Knights attending on the King of France, where hearing the daily report, what magnificent Chivalry was here continually exercised; we (so please it your Majesty) to live in your Court, as men willing to learne the rules of Martial discipline, not doubting but to gaine such grace, as shall satisfie the desire that moved us hereto. I thank you (answered the Emperour) for the paine you have endured in this journey, which amply declares the generosity of your brave minds, because such principles cannot proceed but from a haughty and resolute courage. With these words (for this day) he returned to the Palace, commanding Arnedes to go on his right hand, and Recinde on the left, they both marveling to see the goodly train of knights that attended on the Emperour.

All the way his Majesty eyed Arnedes very much imagining he saw the lively countenance of Lewis Duke of Burgundy, and therefore desired to know his name and parentage, telling him whom he resembled in many points. In truth, my Lord, answered the French Prince it doth not become me to dally with your Majesty: I am King Lewis's eldest son, therefore I am the more like to him. And for his sake, said the Emperour, must I needs love you the more, because here tofore I received by him and his brother great honour. Yet because he perceived that Arnedes was unwilling to be known, he cut off these speeches; and being come to the Palace, after the Princes were both unarmed, he welcomed them as becomed their estates.

Primaleoh daily accompanied Arnedes and Recinde, be-
cause

cause his Father had so commanded him; yet could not the French Prince but marball, that all this while he might not see Philocrita, the cause whereof was, the Ladies were loath to be seen till Dicreus Wedding day, when each one would surpass in bravery, till which time he was glad and faine to hold himself contented. Now had Bruquell his Dwarf leisure to get acquaintance with Rildeno, Primaclons Dwarf, for they were both of the like stature and quality, and therefore their familiarity was not long in breeding, Lynedes and the Countie displeased with their hard fortune, yet they were in hope to recover their foil at the marriage Tourney, which made their griefs the better pacified, now leade we them a while to speak somewhat of the Princes of Tharsus.

CHAP. XIII.

How Palmendos and Ozalio Landed four dayes journey from Constantinople, from whence they parted after they had changed their Armour: and how by the way they lodged in the house of an ancient Knight, of whom Palmendos heard the discourse of the adventure of Francelina, and what they did afterwards.



Our gentle Knight Palmendos, merrily sailed on hoping in short time to content his earnest desires, and having left Abenunco by Sestos and Abidos, he commanded his Pilate to strike to the nearest port for Constantinople, so with favourable wind and weather they came to Saint Lordin, which is a maritime City, four days journey from Constantinople. There he and Ozalio went on Shore, onely to change their Armour and Shields because they would gladly escape unknown: and being made a quick dispatch, they Rode till they came to the house of an Ancient Knight, poor in Goods but noble of heart and person, who invited them friendly to be his Guests, and there were they right Courteously entertained, though not with dainty and delicate viands, yet with indifferent good Chear,

and kind humanity, which especially proceeded from the Knights wife and her fair daughter, who diligently noted the behaviour of these Knights. Such was the countenance of the young Damsel, as by the continual office of her eyes, her heart began to be somewhat touched, and fain would she participate of the pleasure her mind conceived; whereto Palmendos likewise was somewhat provoked, seeing his eyes over-buffed with bathing in the flood of delight, which the presence of this Damsel only procured.

All supper time these quaint glances endured, when among other talk they had together, the old Knight demanded of his guests if they travelled to the Journey at Constantinople; for yesterday (quoth he) came I thence, not a little marvelling to see the number of Knights come thither from all Countries. Herewith he discoursed the success of Arnedes against the County of Pelada and his cousin, and how the two Frenchmen continued Masters of the field. But can none in the Emperors Court (quoth Palmendos) where are such stores of valiant Gentlemen, out go those French cousins in deeds of Arms? Truly Sir, answered the old Knight, it is a matter much to be marvelled; nevertheless I think if Belcar son to the King of Hungaria, and brother to the Bridegrooms that shall be, could come thither, he would dispossesse the Frenchmen of the victory they have gotten of Countie and Lynedes, considering what fame is daily bruited abroad of him, for his rare prowess in guarding the adventure of Francilina. And since the time of his famous attempt, no knight hath there arrived in hope to end the enchintment, but Belcar evermore hath been his conqueror, yet Francilina continueth in the Castle of the Fairies Hill, and shall till some knight (more fortunate then Belcar) can get her forth, notwithstanding he hath vowed no one shall do it seeing himself hath failed in the trial, except he first surpass him in valor and prowess.

Palmendos hearing the name of Francilina, was assailed with such a sudden and vehement passion, proceeding from the unquenchable flame, wherewith his heart lay burning for her love as his countenance altered, and his very soul was touch-

ed with the word of Franceлина. Wherefore most instantly he desired the Knight his Host, to tell him of what race the Lady was descended, and (withall) to proceed in discourse of the adventure, which so many worthy Knights had lost their labours about; likewise to tell him in what Country the Castle was, where the Fairies had appointed this enchantment, because he had sundry times heard speeches thereof, yet could not meet with any one to resolve him of the truth.

Know then good Sir, answered the old knight, that this Lady is one of the fairest and most gracious Princesses that this earthly habitation enjoys; between the two Tropiques of Heaven; Daughter to the King of Thessaly, now prisoner to the great Turk, she being taken forth of her Castle, and inclosed in the Castle of Carderia, by the three enchanting Sisters of the Island, because they foresaw by their Magicall Art, that her Father (who was thir noble Friend) never could be delivered from the captivity of the Infidels, but by the means of some perfect accomplished Knight. Thus did they direct this enchantment, that the rareness of Franceлинаs beauty, might be blazed by them through all Regions, and desire to gain the kingdome of Thessaly (for he that shall deliver the Lady must enjoy her as his Wife, next heir after the death of the captive King) might encourage Knights to come prove this adventure: Whither many have gone in hope of happy conquest, as the now named Prince Belcar did, but he wants strength as sundry other have done, yet will he make the access to the Fortresse more difficult, until he for whom the Princess is desired, arrive there with such puissance and magnanimity, as shall enforce him to forsake the place. Many other things as concerning the history of Franceлина (already set down in the book of Palmerin d Oliva) did the old knight recount to the Prince Palmedos, who having with great assentment noted all was stricken mute and much amazed: for so was his spirit carried away with new and divers thoughts, that he could not tell what to do or say. Now he remembers the old Womens words, and saw there was some likelihood of truth in them, thinking because he had spoken

spoken so much of *Francelina*, that she was one of the *Fairies* which framed this enchantment; the end and abolishing whereof he thought was reserved for him onely, comparing all passed conjunctures together, which made his heart conceive incredible joy, and thus often to parly with himself.

Alas *Palmendos* well mightest thou account thy self favoured of the stars and Fortune, if thou couldest conquer a Lady of so rare and perfect beauty, and thereby attaine the kingdom of *Thessaly*, adjoining to the confines of thy Lord and Fathers Empire. Such was his inward joy conceived by these news, in hearing her spoken of whom his heart most of all honoured, as he said to the old Knight, When you understand, gentle Sir, that *Palmendos* is come to the Emperours Court, let me intreat you to travell thither, and there shall I cause him to requite the courtesie, which we being strangers have here received. Then commanded he one of his Squires to bring a great bag of Gold and Jewels which he poured forth upon the Table, giving the old Knight and his daughter the most part thereof: to the end he should see her honourably married, and furnish her with all things becoming such a beautiful Bride. The Knight and his daughter seeing so much treasure, fell down on their knees and would have kissed his hand; but he very kindly took them up in his arms, saying this was nothing in respect of that he would do for them hereafter. For his mind being ever given to liberality, received such contentment by the speeches of his Post; as rare and precious things seemed of no account, for her sweet sake who was the Goddess and Mistress of his heart. All this night he passed in premeditating what he ought to doe in the present occasions, at length he resolved to see the Tourney, without making himself known to any one, because soon after he would Journey to the Isle of *Carderia*, hereupon he sent a Squire in the morning to St. Lordin, to leave order that the ship should meet him at *Macedon*. Then courteously taking their leave, *Ozario* and he rode towards *Constantinople*, whether the old Knight would have borne them company, but *Palmendos* perswaded him to the contrary, and so set away in great

great hast, arriving in the evening within two miles of Constantinople, from whence he sent a Squire to the City, to understand what was done at the Court, and when the chiefest day of the Tourney should be. The Squire well discharged his Masters command, and returned with full satisfying him in every point, wheretoze Palmendos and Ozalio determined betwixen themselves, not to ride together in company, but each one alone with his Squire, and to return thence very secretly again; nor would they stay there but the two chiefest days, lest happily they might be discovered, and so slack their journey to the Ile of Carderia.

CHAP. XV.

How Palmendos came to Constantinople, where he won the honour and prize of the first Tourney: and how he intended to depart thence on the morrow, lest he should be sought for on that occasion, and what else happened.



When the long expected day of marriage was come the Emperour with all his Knights were very richly clothed, but especially Arnedes, son to the King of France, he was exceeding brave both in attire and countenance for the hope he had to see fair Philocrisla, to whom he had religiously dedicated his heart. Now set forward in order to the Temple, the Emperess with Philocrisla and her other daughters accompanied the Bride, with all the Ladies of blood Royal in the Court: so that if one should sit down to decipher their sumptuous attire, or else in speeches to commend their beauty, it would over-travell the eloquence of Demosthenes or Cicero. But philocrisla was the fairest Star amongst them all, which drew the Prince Arnedes mind into such admiration as had not his eyes been witnesses of the same, hardly could report have induced him to believe it. For even as the Sun the most excellent of all the Planets, showing it self in the Horizon doth confound the brightness of all

the stars together, and dazels their eyes which long gaze thereon; even so resembled the Princess Philocrista, whose celestial portraiture, disgraced all the other Ladies, and altered the judgement of Arnedes in such sort, as he reputed her far beyond the Goddess that appeared to the Shepherd Paris on the mountain of Ida, when of him she was judged to be fairest of the three.

The Emperesse and her Ladies all mounted on their palfreys, with such pomp and state as was never seen the like: Primaleon on a lusty courser of Barbary, with rich caparisons after the Turkish manner, conducted the horse, and Abenunco her brother rode with the Princess Philocrista, Lecefin who loved her more advisedly, rode on her other side for companies sake, but Arnedes whom love impatiently overmastered, used such means by managing his horse as he got the Prince of Babylon out of his place moved thereto by earnest desire, that he might contemplate her beauty more easily: whereat Lecefin was marvellously offended, conceiving a mortall hatred against him, perceiving he had a rival in his love. Recinde accompanied the Princess Melicia, who in his eye seemed both fair and modest, Rifarano telling her by the way, that this Knight came with him that conquered the County, and for his laudable virtues deserved estimation; whereupon she began to confer with Recinde, which she could doe with singular regards, in respect of the rare gifts bestowed on her by nature. In brief, this Royall train is come to the Temple, and there is the marriage solemnly effected, returning to the Pallace with the self same Majesty they went thither. What should we waste time in speaking of the Feast, when there is none so simple but considereth, that the feasts of Emperours exceed common repetition: then may we repute this solemnity answerable to that of the Gods made at the nuptials of Peleus with the Goddess Thetis. After dinner, the Lords and Ladies fell to dancing, a fit occasion for Lovers to commune with their Ladies, yet dissembled with such cunning modesty, as the eye and action were chief messengers of the heart, each Lady holding such opinion of her beloved,

as their several hopes was for the honour of the Tourney.

The time being so passed over, as the new married couple must to the place of amorous contentation, the Emperesse with her daughters brought Equivela into the bride chamber, leaving her in bed attending for the coming of the bridegroom, who was soon after honourably conducted thither by the Emperor, and so committed to enjoy her whom he had so long desired. Now are the Knights close in their chambers, when Arnedes thus communed with Recinde. What think you, cousin of the beauty of Adam Philocris? do you ever see a more rare and perfect creature? right soon must I give ease to these urgent affairs, and ease the burthen of my over-charged spirit; therefore will I presently dispatch a Courier to the King my father, that he may with speed send honourable Embassadors to the Emperor, whereby this desired marriage may be concluded: Mean while I will sound the bottom of this amorous flood, and try if the judgement of fair Philocris be answerable to her exceeding beauty; and if the inward vertue agree with the outward singular perfections, I may repute myself the happiest Knight in the world, in compassing the love of so inestimable a jewel. In sooth my Lord (answered Recinde) great cause have you to commend the Lady, and I desire that the like fortunate success may befall me, as I doubt not but will speedily happen to you; for on mine own behalf, the grace and courtesie of Melicia hath given me a favourable entrance, which if it proceed not to my hearts desire, much better had it been that I never had seen her.

With these words Arnedes embraced his cousin, saying, How sweetly doe these speeches sound in mine Ears, seeing thereby thou art my trusty companion in all things; let this hope persuade thee that he on whom all actions doe depend, will by this divine bounty so direct our course, as we shall enjoy a successful end; if I speak according to my hearts intent, in thy cause will I endeavour my self to the uttermost; therefore let us continue our resolute courage, and make the Grecians understand, that France yields as good Knights as any

Countrey else. And thus concluding, they slept for that night.

On the morrow the Emperoz, the Emperess, the Brides, and the young Princesses, went to the scaffold richly prepared for the sight of the Tournoy, where no void place was left, but every where filled with Lords, Ladies, and Gentlewomen. Wonderful was the resort of Knights and hardy Champions, each one in Armour very costly and curious, having their feathers, pendants and favours decked with the bestes and colours of their Ladies, as it was a most beautifull spectacle to behold them, yet hereon consists not the substance of our History. Few strids Lynedes and the County his cousin, like two furious Lions, to recover the fall they sustained by Arnedes; who perceiving this was the time to win him honour when the Goddess of his thoughts fate to behold him, welcomed the challengers as he had done before. In like sort did Rifarano behave himself: for he unhorsed every Knight that ran against him. But by this time is Ozalio got in through the throng, and he begins to deale with the Courtiers very roughly, which made the Lords and Ladies wonder what he was. And then Palmendos seeing his friend wel wearied comes bravely prancing into the field, so disguised, that Abenunco and Rifarano could not know him. A while he stood regarding the Emperoz his father, so honourably placed with his noble Lords and Barons on the scaffold; then viewing the Emperess with her gracions train of Ladies, he wondered at such pomp and magnificence, thus speaking to himself.

Sovereigns Creator and director of all things, how am I bound in duty to thy Majesty, having made me the son of such a father, as not onely is reputed the best Knight under heaven, but is also the mightiest Prince on the face of the earth. Seeing then thou hast bestowed on me such grace and favour, as that I should issue from such an excellent personage, I must endeavour my self to resemble him, and by something declare that I am his son; for although I go against the Knights of his Court, I hope he will have small cause to mislike

mislike of me, when he knows my forwardness in other matters on his Majesties behalf.

Then beholding a Knight ready to encounter him, he brake off his musings, and gave him such a welcome, as he tumbled headlong down to the ground. Like success had others of other Knights of the Court, which Arnedes seeking angrily to revenge, accompanied the other in misfortune, and after him Pernedin son to the Duke of Pera, one of the best esteemed Knights in Greece. Risarano next ran against Balmendos, and these courses they past bravely with the break of the lance, but at the fourth Risarano was dismounted; whereupon Recinde came to revenge his cousin Arnedes foil, whose fortune was as bad as any of the other, and Lecefin had his disgrace likewise for company.

The Emperoz moved to admire this Chivalry, ignorant who this gallant should be, affirmed that he never saw his equal in prowess: the like did Primaleon, being very desirous to know his name. To whom Abenunco answered, that he imagined him to be Palmendos, because he much resembled him in brave constitution of body. At these speeches the Emperoz was exceeding joyful, requesting Abenunco to go understand the truth thereof; But Palmendos had thrust himself in the thickest of the crowd, which now went out of the Lists, because the sports were ended for that day, so that Abenunco could by no means come near him, and therefore was fain to return unresolved. So went Palmendos closely to his lodging again, where being unarmed, he found that he had received three wounds that day in the Bust, the greatest whereof he took by Recinde the Prince of Spain; but when he saw Ozalio in good disposition, he was right joyful, commending him for his worthy behaviour. And for that he was wounded, he stayed there two days without returning to Constantinople, lest if he went again, his intent might be prevented; Afterwards he rode to the Realm of Macedon, in the very same Arms he wore at the Journey, continually having Francelina in his arms.

C H A P. XVI.

What conference Arnedes had with the princeſſ Philocriſta after Supper, whereupon he ſent a Meſſenger to the King his Father; And how after Recinde, Riſarano and others had won the prize of the ſecond Tourney, they intended to follow in ſearch of the prince Palmendos.



Very much aſhamed were the vanquiſhed Knights of the hard entertainment they had received by Palmendos, and moſt of all the Prince Arnedes, becauſe he was unhorsed before his Miſtreſſ Philocriſta; wherefore he vowed to be revenged, or he would die the death; And ſo divers other Knights that murmured againſt the Conqueror, did the like. But the Emperour perceiving this diſcontentment, came to Arnedes, Recinde, and Riſarano, and to put them from theſe melancholy conceits, he ſhewed them very pleaſant countenance, ſaying, they ought not to miſlike with what had happened, in that themſelves ſhewed very ſufficient Chivalry, and deſired them at the next Tourney to compaſſe the knowledge of the Strange Knight. If he come again (anſwered Arnedes) it may be happily to his diſadvantage; for he having already diſgraced ſo many, the ſport will hardly end without his ſoyl. By this time was Abenunco come back to the Emperour, declaring how he could not ſpeed in his intent, wherewith his Majeſty ſomewhat offended, ſaid.

How will any quiet ſleep enter my head, until I know the name of that worthy Knight: and were it not I ſhould be eſteemed over-ſond, I would my ſelf travell till I found him. All the Knights marvelling at theſe ſpeeches, concluded when the Triumphs were ended, if ſo be the Strange Knight returned not again, to adventure themſelves in the ſearch of him; and they who were moſt forward hereto, were Arnedes, Recinde, Riſarano, Receſin and Pernedin Sonne to the Duke

Duke of Pera; these Gallants without any further conference together, constantly vowed to die, or bring back the Knight again to the Emperour, if they might meet with him in any place.

Supper being ended, Primaleon and Ditreus took Arnedes and Recinde with them, going to sit and devise with the Ladies, when Arnedes got the mean to court Philocrista, and Recinde his chosen Mistress Melicia; what contentment they receiv'd by this good opportunity, I refer to such as are desirous to break the Ice of their amorous passions to them that hold them in so severe servitude. Divers familiar speeches tossed up and down, as of the Journey, and their unhappy disgrace: Philocrista pitying that Arnedes should take it so discontentedly, thus spake. He thinks (sir) you should not be offended at so small a matter: for oftentimes the best Knights have no better success; and we have so well beheld your valiancy, that the Conquerors have cause to complaine of your coming, as the vanquished have of the Knight departed, who as yet is unknown to any in this Court. Arnedes hearing the gentle speeches of Philocrista, bashfull modestly withheld him a while from making any answer, yet at length Love unlocked his lips in this manner.

Madame (saith he) the rare ornaments wherewith nature hath accompanied your divine perfection; causeth you to speak so favourably on my behalf, although no desert in me can apprehend the least part of this kindness; but were I possessed with any such ability, the very glance of her eye, who hath power to command me, would increase my strength, and make me invincible, wherfore my desires cannot be satisfied, untill I recover my liberty lost in this Journey, the conceit wherof is more intolerable to me, then the labour to Sisyphus in rolling the restless Stone. The Heavens will further your attempt herein (answered Philocrista) and I heartily desire it may so come to pass, because it were against reason, you coming so far to see my Lord the Emperour should receive so unkind a reward for your labour. This sweet reply redoubled the French Princes joy, for which he humbly

thanked

thanked Philocrista; with so many courtesies and amorous speeches; that she well perceived the effect of his grief proceeded from the passions of a lovers spirit.

Recinde (on the other side) had so communed with Melicia, that she perceiving how many offers he made to be her Knight, favorably gave him entertainment: and more than any thing else it pleased him to note her beauty, wisdom and good grace, which set his eyes, and all his senses to work. And if they that are in such delight with their Ladies, give some refrigeration to their hearts enflamed with the fire of Love; how could Lecein but be in extreme jealousy, seeing his rival thus to parley with Philocrista: gladly could he have wished him without ransoms in the strongest prison of Persia.

But now is the hour of rest come, when the Emperour withdrew himself to his Chamber, and all the Knights likewise to their lodgings, where Arnedes still meditating on the words of his beloved, immediately wrote to the King his Father; that he should send Ambassadors to the Emperour, for conclusion of the marriage: and till they came he would there stay at the Court, without any further speeches of the matter till their arrival; so sealing his packet as it should be delivered to his fathers hand, he sent one of his Squires the next morning away therewith in post; who made no less speed then the Prince had commanded him. Afterward he called Bruquel his Dwarf aside, commanding him not to stir out of Constantinople, because he was to depart about some matters of importance, and if the Emperour in the mean while asked for him, to make him that answer; or any other that enquired after him. Moreover, that he should from time to time confer with the Princess Philocrista, assuring her of his zealous affection to her service; which that he might the better execute, he was rising abroad to take the air of the fields. The Dwarf very willingly performed every thing he had in charge, not daring to break the least article he was commanded.

The time being come of the Journey, rare Chivalry was there delivered on all sides: but Arnedes, Recinde, and Rifa-

rano had the chiefest honor, attending when the strange knight should shew himself again. And when they saw he came not, they immediately determined the execution of their enterprise, without returning into the City, or knowing which way each other took, but even took their chance as fortune directed them. The Emperour was glad that his knights had won the day, yet could he not but marvel that the stranger was seen no more: then coming to the Pallace, and seeing none of those five which were departed in the March of Palmiendos, he could not tell what to imagine. Of course he desired to be resolved, yet could he not be answered to his content: wherefore, Bruquel made answer for his Master he was commanded, which made his Majesty then to conceive the truth indeed, whereof he was not a little glad, hoping now to hear more of the strange knight.

When the solemn feast for the marriage was ended, the knights returned to their own Countries; so did Dircens and Esquivela toward Hungary, with an honourable train sent by the Emperour. Philocrista was sorry for the departure of Esquivela; whom she loved as if she had been her sister, because from their young years they were educated together; nor could Abenunco her brother go with them so far as happily he would, because the league of amity between him and Primalcon enforced him to stay: King Fryfol received his son Dircens, and his fair daughter Esquivela with incredible joy, humbly (by letters) thanking the Emperour for the honour he had done him, returning his knights with rich and precious gifts. But come we now to the five knights, that were departed in search after Palmendos.

How Arnedes met with Palmendos, who left him half dead, and had afterward been slain by Lecefin, if Pernedlin had not happily arrived, and what followed.



Ready you have heard how Arnedes departed secretly from Constantinople, in search of the Knight that foiled him in the Tourney, demanding of every one he met by the way, if they saw not a Knight in red Armour, having a little silver flower for his device in his shield, but not any could answer him to his expectation, whereupon the night being hard at hand, he came to an Hermitage at the foot of a mountain, where with the old father he lodged that night, contented with his poor and homely recreation. On the morrow, bidding his Host heartily farewell, he has not rode an arrow shot from the Hermitage, but he espied two Knights come riding thither, and staying to see what they were, at length he knew the one to be Palmendos, which god had pleasing him not a little, he intended by fair means or force to cause him return again, wherefore he came to him with these words.

Sir Knight, I think my self favoured of Fortune by meeting you here, in that I left the Emperours Court for nothing else but to seek you, because his Majesty desireth to see and know you in respect of your brave behaviour at the Tourney; therefore I intreat you, for the love you bear his highness, to return back with me, that I may discharge my promise herein to his Majesty. You did not well, Sir (answered Palmendos) to promise any thing depending on another mans will; and so that at this time I have urgent occasions elsewhere, I cannot satisfy his Highness desire, albeit I am ready in any thing else to do him service; and so I beseech you answer on my behalf, Knight, (quoth Arnedes)

I pray you consider hereon a little better, and think that such speeches cannot discharge me of my duty; therefore determine right soon to go with me willingly, otherwise I must compel you to returne perforce. Perforce, no, (saith Palamedes) well may I go with my will, if so be I please. I wished for your good (answered Arnedes) and the remembrance of your valour in the Courney, causeth me to bear with you very much; but seeing you will not willingly yield hereto, provide for the combat: and think not that your bravery at the triumph, shall any thing avail you now in this place. If you will needs enforce me to it (saith Palamedes) let yours be the shame: as for my self, in respect of my love to the Emperoꝛ, I would be loath to combat with you. Whereupon they so furiously encountered together, that both of them were sent to the ground: and afterward they fought a cruel combat at the sword, till Arnedes with the great expence of his blood, having received many a grievous wound, fell down at the Wyndce of Tharsus sat, who having mow cleave his sword, that was very bloody, and put it into the sheath said.

I think you will not hereafter seek to enforce any knight, remembering how dearly you have paid for this boldness. So mounting on horseback (albeit he was likewise wounded) he rode on his journey with Ozalio, The Hermit with whom Arnedes lodged all night, having beheld this combat, moved with charity and compassion, came down the Mountaine, to succour Arnedes, who lay bleeding in the Grass and unclasping his Helmet to give him air: in short time he recovered his senses again: when seeing none but the Hermit, and that the Knight was gone, he reputed it for an act of great humanity: in not killing him outright, his life standing at his mercy: Afterward he thus spake to himself. What shall I now do, if not complain of the instability of Fortune? was not my coming into these Countreys unhappy, where I thought to win honour & renown, wherall things turn to my shame and reproch? If my strength is not correspondent to the valour of my mind, I must give over the exercise of arms,

which Fortune (I see) entices I should follow; longer would he have continued in these pensive moans; but the Hermit interrupted him in this manner.

My Son, give thanks to him that delivered thee out of the knights hands, and hath not suffered both body and soul to perish: Let idle and indecent thoughts be now abandoned, and lift up thy mind to the place of eternall comfort. With these words he bound up his wounds so well as he could, minding to lead him to his Hermitage: But as one mischance happeneth not alone, so fell it out at this instant: for he was no sooner gotten on foot, but Lecchin his mortall Enemy arrived; and knowing him to be his rival in love, drawing his sword, thus spake:

Now shall I teach thee, my Capitall Enemy, what it is to love her whom thou art not worthy to serve, and that vally make thee presently confesse, or buy thy boldness with the price of thy blood: for a Lady of so rare perfections, standeth too high out of a Frenchmans reach. Herewith he violently strook at Arnedes, whom the good old Hermit seeing in such dangerous case, did take him in his arms, desiring Lecchin not to seek his death; that had of late escaped it so near. But Lecchin being a War, and therefore the more inextorable, would give no ear to his words, but cruelly gave the old man such a stroke on his head, as that therewith he fell down dead to the ground: Ah dogged and disloyal Triaxto (said Arnedes, when he beheld this tragical act) why hast thou slain this religious Father that never offended thee? O he Heavens I hope wil not let thee pass unpunished, but plague thee as such a damnable deed requireth.

So taking his sword as well as he might, by reason of his former hurts, he sought to defend himself, and revenge the Hermits death; but all was in vain; for (without a marvellous chance) Arnedes death was now obtained. In a happy hour arrived there Pernedins son to the Duke of Pera, one of them that departed in the search of Palmendos, who knowing both the combatants stepped between them saying, Why now now Gentlemen, are your courtly friends become ene-

mies in field: Arnedes, who was no longer able to hold out, falling down to the earth, said.

Oh Pernedin, revenge my wrong on this inhumane wretch, who having me cruelly wounded before, by the Knight that bare away the honour of the Tourney, without any cause set violently upon me; And this villanous Mo: not content to wrong me alone, hath slain this holy Hermit, because he dissuaded him from dealing with me, that had been so hardly intreated before. What tyranny is this in a Knight: answered Pernedin, by my sword, did not my love to Rifarano ob-
bet-rule me, the gentle prince that brought thee to the Court, here I would make thee to breath thy last: but I shall declare this treason before the Emperour and his Barons: what manhood thou hast used to a wounded man, whom thou darst not deal with had he been in health; wherefore get thee gone I advise thee, or I shall send thine accursed soul to hell. At these words Lescin was so ashamed of himself, as mounting presently on Arnedes horse, he rode away not speaking to either of them: knowing he had notoriously blemished his honour; wherefore he sent to a Monastery of Nuns near at hand, to have his wounds bound up, that he had received by Arnedes.

When the Sisters knew that he was of the Emperours Court, they entertained him very courteously, and one of them being a cunning Chirurgion, undertook in a short time to heal his wounds. But when Pernedin both offended and grieved, to see the old Hermit slain, and Arnedes in such danger; wherefore calling the Nobles that alwayes attended on the old Father, they led the wounded Prince into the Hermitage, and afterward fetching the dead body, burying it as they could conveniently, applying to bea sign salves (whereof the good old man was never any provided) to Arnedes wounds, But Pernedin seeing there was no more help, and they likewise ignorant in those kind of unguents, thought it more meet they should go straight to the City of Constantinople.

There may you (quoth he) sooner recover your health, because men of skill and knowledge shall take special care of you;

you ; and for my part, I will willingly accompany you thither, albeit I have not sped in the cause of my departure. It will be to my shame, answered Arnedes, that the Emperour should see me in this dangerous plight ; notwithstanding I will at this present be counselled by you, being never able to recompence this honourable kindness.

CHAP. XVII.

How Pernedin brought Arnedes to Constantinople, where the Emperour, the Empress, with their Daughters Philocrista and Melicia, came to visit him ; what talk the two Dwarfs had together.



Recently after that Arnedes was brought (by the means of Pernedin) to Constantinople in a litter, because he could not stow on a horseback ; and of this mischance was brought to the Emperour, who growing into extreme anger against the Part, said.

Well may Lecefin resemble the Soldan his father, a man full of treacherous and ignoble practices ; but he must not thus think to wrong a Prince of France. So stepping from his Chair, he went to the Privies chamber to visit him, charging his Physicians and Chirurgions to tend him as well as if they had his own person in cure.

Then Arnedes repeated the whole discourse of that which happened between Palmedos and him, at the return thereof the Emperour thus answered. I wonder that the knight should be so desirous to do me service, and yet not fly in this sort from me ; doubtless he is gone to prove the adventure of Franceina, if he rose that way you say he did, and it may be his fortune to succeed. I hope, except your Majesty declare exceed him in valour, and that I can hardly believe he will.

When the Emperour departed, he commanded that the Empress

Empress and her daughters should go visit the Prince, which she accordingly did, taking Philocrista and Melicia with her, she being greatly offended at the injury done to Arnedes. Philocrista very much bemoaned his mishap, yet wisely and discreetly as became a sober virgin; for the love she bare him was striked from gentleness and vertue, which she noted him to prefer in all his actions, and nothing had she in more speciall account, then to conserve her chastity pure and unspotted. Arnedes was joyfull to see her he loved so dearly, how she sorrowed for his hard fortune, and blamed Lecein as a disloyall Traytor: which gentle speeches did more comfort his heart then all the physick or cunning in the world could doe.

While the Empress and her daughters beguiled the time with him, Amenada a woman Dwarf that attended on Philocrista, and Risdene her Saphew, came to Bruquel, Arnedes Dwarf, who used sundry lamentations, for the great mishap had befallen his Master. Amenada comforted him in the best sort she could, saying, that in respect his wounds were not mortal, there was no doubt but he would soon recover them; and the rather, because the Emperour had given such charge of him as plainest person could not be better attended. Ah (saith Bruquel) shouldst thou know it were no worse: then breaking forth a renten sigh, he proceeded in this manner.

Oh my noble Lord Arnedes, how dear doth her beauty cost thee, for whom thou leavest thy Countrey? where the onely reputation of thine estate, being extracted from such an high and illustrious lineage, was sufficient to have obtained her, without hazarding thy life to so many perils and dangers. Amenada interrupting at these words, was immediately wrapped with curious desire to know which was the knight he nameth; and the reason she behouren Bruquel with intreaties: for she long since knew his Master to be a knight of France, whom she the Emperour could tell, that he was the King's only ally in that part of the world. (saith the Dwarf) will I be so foolish as to accept, which without his command I durst not attempt, because my liberty stretched not so far; yet

yet will I promise you to ask him the question; and if he be pleased I will satisfy your desire.

Mosica, who was rapt in affection to know more as concerning his Lover Recinde, seeing these Prisoners thus conferring together, and over-hearing some of their speeches, after they were departed to their chambers, she demanded of Amenada, what talk she had with Arnedes Dwarf: whereupon she repeated the whole discourse, to the no little content of Philocrista, because this way she might attain to more knowledge of the French Prince. And as she heard her say, that he left his Country for the love of a Lady, she presumed immediately her self to be the same, for commonly, it falls out, that Lovers will favour themselves in semblable judgments and conjectures: wherefore she commanded Amenada, to wait Bruquel for performance of his promise.

The dwarf when he saw convenient time to talk with his Master, he gave him to understand what had past between him and Amenada, which pleased him so well as nothing could do more, & commended to him the pursuit of his practise. On the morrow the Emperour and Primaleon dined together, wherefore Amenada went to find out Bruquel at his lodging, and he meeting her by the way, first of all told her that he would perform the promise he made the day before: but (quoth he) before I satisfy you herein, I must request one thing of you.

Demand hardly what thou wilt, quoth Amenada, for thy suite being honest, thou canst not be denied. You must promise me then, said Bruquel, that to no living creature except Adam Philocrista, you disclose what I shall reveal to you. So is it Amenada, that for the love of her onely Arnedes my honourable Lord and Master, eldest son to the King of France, hath forsaken his native Country, in that the rendition of her excellent beauty spread by fame through all those parts, caused him to cut through the dangerous seas, to credit with his eyes what his ears were told without. And having at full contemplated her sweet face, he was that nature willing sufficiently to embellish the chief piece of work, hath taken all ability from human report, how curious or eloquent soever it be

he, thoroughly to accomplish the praise of her merit; wherefore he hath sent a Carrier to the King his Father, that his Majesty should send Embassadors hither to confer with the Emperour on a marriage betwixt my Master and your Lady, and till they come to dispatch this occasion he will not be known herof to any one, except it be to her gracious self only. Humbly then desire her, with some benigne Clemenov to intreat the heart, which her divine figure hath secretly ravished and made her thall, so shall she give cure to his wounds, and make him the most Fortunate Champion, that ever entred field for his Lady: otherwise he cannot long enjoy his vitall motion, and by his death shall occasion divers other beside, especially his cousin Recinde, son to the King of Castile, who loveth him as his proper life, and as he bears him company in his voyage, so will he take part of the hardest fortune, for the love and near alliance, that is betwixt them.

So well could this tall Pigmy use his language to gain successe for his Masters intent, as he made no more difference betwixt the two Princes, in respect of their royal unanimity together: then was betwixt the two Pythagorick companions, Orestes and Pylades, or Nisus and Euryalus, that would one die for another. Greatly did Amenada marvel, hearing that a Prince of so high and great birth, would adventure thorough such dangerous travels onely for the accomplishment of a marriage and might have gained it with much less labour, wherefore she thus answered.

In sooth if I had not promised to acquaint my Lady herewith I durst not for my Life discover such weighty matters, because I cannot tell her the whole discourse, in that her Sister Melicia is never from her, and then shall she know as much as my Distresse. That hurteth not replied Bruquel, never conceal it through fear of her presence, for she is such a wife and well governed Princess, as she will rather modestly hide it, then any way seek to spread it abroad, and will (beside) nothing at all mislike thereof. This he spoke, for that she had her part in the play, namely by her Love to the Prince Recinde, and if perhaps Philocrista should be slow or opposite

in her love, Melicia happily would counsel her not to refuse so good an offer, in brief, that they might reciprocally advise one another, as sick folks who had surfeited both of one disease, and so oftentimes it comes to pass, that two thoughts assisted with one kind of martyrdom, receive together more consolation, then they could by any other that feel not the like torment.

Bruquel having done his endeavour, for the conciliation of Philocrista with his Master, returned immediately to him, whom he found attending in silent devotion, to understand the issue of this amorous stratagem, and after that the Dwarf had word by word recounted all his negotiation, Arnedes was wrapt in such unspeakable joy, as he imagined the hour happy when he met with such an ingenious Truch man. Amecnada on the other side, when she espied time for the purpose, interpreted so well and faithfully the intent of the Prince to her mistress Philocrista, as she therewith was carried into a thousand imaginations. And albeit the Knight despaired not in his sute, but rather imagined so sweet a countenance would be inclined to mercy; yet she had so lost her liberty in this cause, by seeing her beloved so dangerously wounded, as now she feared to send him any severe or rigorous answer, wherefore she thus spake to her Dwarf. I am offended that thou didst promise Bruquel to acquaint me with this news, but seeing what hath happened cannot be prevented; thou shalt then go to Arnedes, and tell him from me, that I marvel he would thrust, himself into many perils, for which I account my self beholding to him, and promise him in requitall of his hard sufferings, to accept of him as my loyal husband, if my gracious parents will so permit it; with this condition that he adventure not the least speeches hereof to me, but hold himself sufficed by knowing my will herein, And that I may be assured of the vehement affections he bears me, desire him to feed on this answer, as on the most soveraign Balm or perfect Cataplasm, that may lessen of all consolidate his wounds: so hastning his cure and convalescence, that (if it may be) he honor me with his presence to morrow,

After

After Philocrista had instructed Amenada in her Embassy, she took Melicia aside, to whom because they loved each other with sincere affection, Philocrista discovered this amorous intent, and Verbatim reported what the Dwarf had told her; which discourse well contented Melicia, chiefly when she heard that her Knight Recinde, was of the Royal blood of Castile. By time is Amenada come to the French Prince, and hath delivered the message from Philocrista, wherewith he was so cheerfully animated as soon after he determined to forsake his bed, but before the Dwarf returned again, he desired her to convey a French ditty to her mistress, which for her sake, he devised that morning, and withall to intreat the Master of the Emperors Chappel, to order it in parts, after the art of musick; the ditty was thus.

The finest gold is by the touch discern'd,
 The Adamant the sturdy iron draws;
 The proof hereof in love may well be learn'd,
 For by these twain I shape a lovers cause.
 You Madam framed of the finest Gold,
 Upon the touchstone of my heart is tryed;
 And I composed of the Iron mold,
 Follow the virtues that in you abide.
 Then sith the touch tells if the Gold be pure,
 And rugged Iron shews the vertuous stone;
 Take Touch and Iron both into your cure,
 For (Madam) they belong to you alone.

After that Amenada had received this Ditty she said to the Prince, that she could not tell how her Mistress would like of her, bringing her such a presumptuous message, yet if she were displeased therewith, she would disguise every thing so well, as each of them in the end should receive contentment. So returning to the Princess Philocrista, she told in what extremity the Prince was for her love, and to mitigate his pas-

stons, had framed that ditty; which when he had read and well noted, she accounted her conquest greater, then if she were possessed of all Asia. Sundry times did the Emperesse and her daughters visit the French Prince, to the unspeakable contentment of the secret Lovers, who awaited nothing but the coming of the French Embassadors, for the confirmation of their long desired hope; but let us leave them a while, and come to Rifarano, who is all this while in the search of *Palmendos*.

CHAP. XIX.

How Rifarano being in the search of Palmendos, met with a Dwarf travelling toward the Emperour, to complaine on a wrong a Knight had done him, and how to revenge the Dwarf, and gratifie the Emperour herein, Rifarano went to combat with the Knight before his Castle.



Three days together rode Rifarano after his departure from Constantinople. Without hearing any tidings of the Knight he sought for, and now in the evening, he met a Dwarf on horseback accompanied with Four Squires, of whom he inquired likewise as concerning the knight. In sooth, quoth the Dwarf, I saw not any such; but tell me I pray you from whence you now come? From the Court of the Emperour Palmerin, answered Rifarano. How happy then am I, said the Dwarf, to meet you here, because I have evermore heard, that thence comes many good and vertuous Knights, wherefore I shall pray (in respect of the good I wish to so benigne a Prince) that you may soon find the man you look for, and likewise that his Majesty may pitty my cause, in revenging me on a Knight that hath shamefully outraged me, I giving him no cause of offence in the world. With these words he gave a marvellous sigh; whereupon Rifarano desiring to understand

stand the cause, the Dwarf thus began.

Know Gentle Knight, that albeit God hath fashioned me as you see, yet did he bestow on me riches and possessions; and among other things I have a strong Castle not far hence, there fell I in love with a beautifull Damoysel, Daughter to a Gentleman my near neighbour, with whom I dealt in such sort, as soon after I enjoyed her in marriage. Living afterward in all prosperous felicity, we walked abroad to recreate our selves, in a pleasant field near adjoining to my house, where this proud and discourteous knight (who long laboured to have my Wife in marriage, and by reason of his evil conditions could not obtain her) came accompanied with two of his kinsmen (as bad disposed men as himself) and there took my Wife perforce from me, carrying her to a Castle of his two days journey from hence, where he keepeth her under strong guard, and hath sent me word by one of my Squires that if I complain hereof to any living creature, he will come and kill me with his own hand in my Castle. Yet being unable to endure this villanous oppression, I am going to tell my cause to the Emperour Palmerin, who I hope will speedily do me justice herein, being a Prince thereto greatly addicted, as I have heard report.

Risarano marvelling at this horrible injury, said to the Dwarf. Show me the Castle where the Knight abideth; for I doubt not but to do so much in the right of thy cause, as he shall yield recompence for this fault, and fear hereafter to offer the like to any one; Without any further troubling the Emperour herein. The Dwarf accepting this friendly offer, that night lodged Risarano at his Castle, where he was exceeding well entertained, and on the morrow, taking six Squires with them, rode to the knights Castle, where espying one upon the walls. Risarano demanded if his Lord were within. Harry is he (answered the Squire on the Walls) he is now sporting himself with that Tall Fellows Love; but I am sorry you would be so badly Counsell'd (quoth he to Risarano) as to come to end your Life in this place. Be not thou so careful

careful for me (answered Rifarano) but go, and let the master understand, that I would speak two or three words with him, on certain matters that very nearly concern his honour. The Squire went presently to his Master, who hearing that the Dwarf had brought a Knight with him, took the Gentlewoman by the hand, and brought her with him to a window, where opening the casement that they might see her, said,

A knight that didst call me hither say boldly what thou canst; for I well perceive thou comest to seek thine own ruine. And there didst thou find thy dishonour (answered Rifarano) when by force and treason thou didst abuse this Gentleman, who never gave thee any cause of offence: wherefore restore restore his wife, whom thou unjustly detainest; or if reason may not thereto persuade thee, come down and enter the combat with me, and I shall let thee know the price of thy villainy. I had not thought (replied the Knight of the Castle) that thy indiscretion had been so great, as to think I would win a thing so hardly, and deliver it from me so lightly; no; shall the Paragon of my heart be again in the custody of so base an excrement of nature. When he spake to the Dwarf in this manner.

Thou wretched and ridiculous creature, comest thou likewise to make one in the Tragedy: begin with thine own hand thou wert best, or I shall plague thee with extreme torments. So took he the Gentlewoman in his arms, and oftentimes lasciviously kissed her, she striving in tears to hinder his embraces, wherefore he said. Good Madam, seek no occasion whereby to offend your self; for you shall see me pluck down the bravery of this Knight, and make the monster your husband safe from troubling you any more. Now these are but words (quoth Rifarano) let me see thee come armed into the field, then shall I live in hope of some deeds: And if thou wilt have me imagine thee courageous bring down the Lady with thee that the conqueror may carry her whether him pleaseth, I am content (answered the Knight) because thou shalt see how little I esteem thy threatening and soon shall all controversies be ended between mee and thee, that hereafter may arise on this occasion.

Quickly

Quickly had he armed himself and came forth leading the Lady in his hand; Which when the Dwarf saw, he durst not tarry, but got him a bow shoot further off. So fell the Knight & Riscarano to combat, which continued long time doubtful on either side; but at length Riscarano had the upper hand of his enemy having given him many cruel wounds on his body, when the Squires of the Castle saw their Master overcome, they would forcibly have carried the Lady into the Castle again: but Riscarano advertised thereof by her cry, made them forsake her and run hastily into the Castle. Then taking her by the hand said, Come with me, Lady, and I shal deliver you to your husband that loves you loyally and you may be perswaded by this I have done at his earnest intreaty.

Many humble thanks he requited him withall, seeing her self free from this injurious enemy; and the Dwarf seeing this fortunate success, came and humbled himself at the conquerors feet, embracing his wife with abundance of joy, being neither of them able to express their contentation, for that tears and inward motions of comfort had deprived them of speech. Afterward the Knight had recovered himself again, and came stealing on Riscarano thinking to murder him but the Dwarf espying him, cries out; whereupon the Prince returned, and once more getting him into subjection, with his sword smote his head from his shoulders.

The Dwarf not a little joyfull for this victory, desired the Prince that he would accompany him to his Castle, because that traitorous Knight had a brother and two cousins who hearing of his death would presently pursue them, whereto Riscarano courteously condescended and mounting the Gentlewomen behind her husband they journeyed thence with all speed possible. But ere they could recover the place where they would be, they were pursued by the Knights Brothers and his two cousins: when the Dwarf and his wife now very thought to die; notwithstanding such was the brave behaviour of Riscarano, that one after another they sped all the Knight of the Castle had done, and so without any more interruption they got home to their Castle, where they scalded the Prince
very

very sumptuously. On the morrow he departed thence, continuing his Travell after Palmendos, and by the way, he succoured a distressed Countesse against a cruel brother in Law of hers, named Diolo, who sought forcibly to deprive her of her possessions: but by the rare Chivalry of Rifarano, he lost his life in that bad attempt. And there with the Countesse we will leave Rifarano having too long forgotten our chief knight Palmendos.

CHAP. XX.

How Palmendos arrived in the Isle of Carderia, where first he was vanquished Tirendos in the fust, and next the Knight that guarded the passage of the Bridge, and also divers other that assailed him at the third Tower, and how he came to the Garden gate where Franeelina was.



Not long since you understand, how after Palmendos had vanquished Arnedes, he followed his way with long desire to the Carderia, wherefore omitting all occasions that might hinder his voyage he determined to make no stay till he come to the Isle, & very soon after it was his chance to arrive there, when he implored the help of heaven in finishing this adventure, and as a sacrifice after victory, he promised to offer his soul to the holy character of Christianity, and to be baptized as soon as he could. At this time Belcar kept not the passage of the bridge, because he was departed certaine daies before, to visit the King and Queen of Macedon: for they hearing of his wonderfull deeds of Arms, in defending that Bridge, sent for him to the Court by an expresse messenger, And truly he would not have gone (so resolute was he in his enterprise) but that the Princess Alderina secretly commanded him by a Letter written with her own hand; she having discovered the truth of all to the Queen Griana, intreating her by some means to continue the Duke her

her father there, till that time Belcar came from the Isle of Carderia.

The Queen liked hereof exceeding well, and knowing her Rophts could not join in more honourable marriage, then with the chaste and vertuous Alderina; she conferred with the Duke and Dutcheſs of Pontus, who likewise were glad of ſo noble alliance. For this cauſe the Queen ſent one of her Gentlemen to Belcar, accompanied with Alderinaes Page, who cloſely deliuered the Prince the Letter, the ſubſtance whereof ſolloweth thus.

The Letter ſent by the Princeſſe of Duraee, to Belcar Son to the King of Hungaria.

To the right valiant and renowned Prince *Belcar*, Son to the King of *Hungaria*; a Maiden very eaſie to be deceived, ſendeth health condigne to his deſerts.

Excuſe me, Lord *Belcar*, if I write to you what the abundance of my Spirit infoꝛceth, becauſe if it were of any thing elſe, I fear I could not ſay, without conſuſed wandering in this diſcourſe; ſo extraordinaryly are my ſences herein perplexed, as they can enjoy no little breathing time of reſt and quiet. And if you would exactly conſider, from whence this moleſtation proceedeth, you ſhould find the ground thereof to be violent and exceſſive love, which on my behalf was faithfully entertained, and dedicated to none but only you; a reaſon to procure this Letter the more favourable entertainment, and to be read with as good will as it is written. Know then, that I do not without great occaſion ſilently complain of you, becauſe methinks you ſeem a promiſe breaker, or rather a prebicator; in love towards me, as the reading of this Letter will cauſe you to confeſſe, if that reaſon be not alienated from your judgement, which ought to direct your compaſſ in all affairs.

What think you now will be the vulgar opinion of your attempt

attempt, nothing but that you desire to have the name of Francelineas true champion, considering the marvellous exploits in Arms, which daily you perform in her defence; making hereby the renown of her excellency more memorable, and all Gentlemen more desirous to visit that Fair. Wherefore I now perceive you are not my knight; but rather that your service is onely for the sake Prince's Francelinea: which moveth me to believe, that the speeches used on your behalf, when you departed from the Journey at Macedon, were meer forgery and dissimulation; an act sufficient whereon to raise condemnation (unlesse I speedily perceive the contrary) and to repute you the most disloyal Prince that ever made profession of manhood. But to prevent this persuasion (wherein common speech by your absence hasteneth me) and that it may not be resolutely set down in my mind, I pray you come hither with what speed you can, before my departure hence from Durace, that I may apply some remedy to my continual Martyrdome, which in loves unquenchable fire my heart suffereth by your occasion. Else send me word suddenly what is your intent, as concerning the principal points dilated, and by no other messenger then this bearer, whom I charge with some speeches by word of mouth; in whom you may boldly trust and acquaint with your secrets, as the most faithful messenger I could devise to send.

The Lady known to you, whose death is near at hand, if pity cause you not to come, the peril to withstand.

This Letter, and other matters of Credence wherewith Alderina right well instructed Gracian, were the onely means that the Prince Belcar came to Macedon, who left Tixerendos (in mean while) defender of the Bridge at Carderia, hoping to return thither again very shortly: but other matters happened to him which excused that labour, according as you shall read hereafter.

Now come we to the Prince of Tharsus, whom Tiredos perceiving to approach the Bridge, came and denied him passage according to the order; whereupon they fell to the last. Tiredos fortune proving so bad as he was sent to measure his length on the ground; whereat the beholders were greatly amazed so; that since the departure of Belcar, he had prebaild against many a Knight. Among the rest the Queen of Thessaly mother to Francelina, who was come thither five or six days before, because the last of the three Fairies that caused the enchantment in the Fortress, fore-saw she could not live long, hastened the coming of Palmendos, as you have heard before, and afterwards sent word to the Queen that soon after her death she should see her desires accomplished.

The Death of the Enchantresse was no sooner known to the good Queen (who had an extreme affection to see her Daughter free from the Magicall conjurations, that thereby the King her husband might be delivered from cruell servitude amongst the Heathen) but she departed from Thessaly and came to the Isle of Carderia, where she, nor any of hers could passe further then the bridge: wherefore they created Tents and Pavilions in the field, attending there the end of the adventure, when she seeing that Tiredos was vanquished, wished such success to the new come knight, as that he might happily finish the enchantment.

Palmendos perceiving how his first adversary would trouble him no further approached to the gates of the first Tower, where he beheld the great knight ready to offer him battell, wherefore he alighted from his horse, and drawing his sword, said. If the providence of the heavens have destined me to conquer this enterprize, far be all pusillanimity and cowardise from me, till I have delivered the gentle Princess here inclosed: forbear then mine eyes as yet to rovet the sight of Francelina, albeit you desire to behold her, and I will keep promise with you so soon as Fortunes pleasureth.

After these words, he closely buckled with the knight of

the Bridge, continuing a long, dangerous and doubtful combat with him, the Dwarf in the Lanthorn sundry times with his Horn renewing his Champions forces; yet by the man of invincible courage, who was ordained to be his Conqueror, he was confounded maugre all his diuelliſh helps. So forward he marched to the second Tower, and as the gates were clapping together, according as they did to the Prince Belcar, he thrust his Sword between the gates, when immediately the thunder ceased, then they fell back wide open as they were before.

At this good hap the beholders were greatly amazed, especially the Queen of Thessaly, who followed on still accompanied with Ozalio, and to him she highly commended the worthy behaviour of this Knight, Ozalio answering her, that she had good cause to applaud her stars, having sent hither a Knight of such royal descent, as his like was not to be found through all the Christian kingdoms. Tiredos in this while was carried into his Tent by his Squires, where he so grieved for his disgrace, as he was ready to die in despair thereof. Now is *Palmendos* come to the last Tower, which was defended by three knights armed cap a pe, and they with three sharp Lances stood ready to receive him at the point, wherewith he being somewhat amazed, said to himself, whereon thinkest thou *Palmendos*? What beginnest thou now to dismay? tush man be of good cheer, thou labourst for her, with whose beauty none in the world may compare; if by committing so far thou hast done more, then any Knight before thee could performe, commit thy self to God and Fortune for the rest, and follow thine intent though thou die therein. Now begins he courageously to adventure on them, who joining altogether against him, overthrow him that he could hardly arise again, notwithstanding recovering his feet, he pursued with such unconquerable hope, as at length he drove them before him over the bridge, when both they and the first Knight of the Tower vanished away together, and in like manner did the Dwarf that sat in the Lanthorn, with a horrible shaking of the Earth and the whole

fortress. The Queen Ozalio, and the rest fell down, and honoured Heaven for this victory, persuading themselves that the worst of the adventure was past, as for the Prince himself he followed the matter with such alacrity, considering fair *Francelina* was the reward of his travell, as nothing seemed to him impossible. So passing on, he found the poster that guided the way to the garden, which was guarded by two furious enchanted dogs, thers through the wicket he beheld a Fountain, with sunny good damoisels about it, and in the midst in a curious chair of cloath of gold sat *Francelina* the sweet Goddess of beautie, so wonderfully decked in rich ornaments as it would have made any heart enamoured to behold her. *Palmendos* ravished with the sight of her, slept in at the door not dreadding any perill, when presently the enchanted Dogs ran upon him, as though they would have torn him in pieces, and long time very dangerously they did assault him, tearing his Armor cruelly in pieces, that he was now driven to despair of his life: yet in the end with much ado he prevailed against them, albeit they brought him into exceeding great perplexity, as he never felt the like in all his life before.

CHAP. XXI.

What gentle speeches and gracious devises, Palmendos had with fair Francelina in the garden, where they supped together: and how after he had told her what he was, he gave her the Ring, which he received of the Queen his mother at his departure from Tharus.



Francelina already had felt the flames of love, in as vehement manner as the Prince *Palmendos*, because of the Fairies (knowing the end of the enchantment is at hand) told her that ere long she should be conquered, and delibered from that Castle by one of the best knights in the world, she being at her birth appointed his

his wife, in recompence of his adventurous travels.

And this discourse she sealed with so many rare commendations of the knight, as her heart were surprized with love in such sort that she longed every hour to see the man appointed for her husband. And as the Pilot long perplexed with outrageous tempests, mounts to the top to see if any Haven or rescue is at hand: so this Lady toiled to and fro in the rough billows of love, oftentimes left her dungeon and came upon the walls expecting the coming of this promised knight. By good hap she espied when Palmendos came to the bridge, beside the trembling of the Castle at the departure of the knights, touched her heart with a sign of present comfort, whereupon in this bravery she went with her damoisels into the garden, expecting the issue of the knights fortune that presaged so much before hand. In brief, he being entered the garden, as you have heard already, she being directed by the Ladies what she should do, when she perceived the Dogs overcome, arose with her Damoisels, and went towards the knight, shewing many gracious countenances for his welcome; but Palmendos seeing her approach so near him, fell on his knee, offering to kiss her hand, & hereat Francelina bashfully blushing, offered him the like, saying,

It is my duty, Sir knight, to use such Humility, albeit your courtesie hath prevented me, for this wonderful adventure finished by you declares your rare perfection in perfect Chivalry, being second to none that at this day beareth Arms. Yet ere you take me hence, I would request one favour at your Hands, not any thing to make you doubt the loss of her, who freely giveth her self as your own, but for that you have delivered me from the enchantment, my request granted, you may dispose of me as your loyal spouse and wife. Adam answered Palmendos, I now think my self no less beloved of heaven, then favoured by Fortune, hearing you say that I am yours, and you are mine, which makes me think all my labours nothing in respect of you: therefore demand what you please, for I being your professed servant, must with all reverence obey your command. A Thousand thanks

thanks god knight (quoth she) albeit such speeches agree not with your calling, I being only in your subjection, and ready to attend as your hand-maiden; but me thinks it were next day you should take a little rest being god to regard the end and period of all things, let me therefore humbly intreat you, to come refresh your self so; the better conservation of your health,

So went they both together to the Fountain, where *Palmerinos* was unmarried by the Princess *Francelina* and her damosels, and a costly Mantle was brought to wrap about him, then sat he down by his Lady, in another chair covered all over with Gold. There was Lillies, Roses, Violets, and all the sweet flowers that the earth affordeg, & of incomparable beauty: the maidens beguiled the time with sundry sounds of instruments, and thereto sung many dainty Canzonets, as if *Apollo*, *Orpheus*, *Arion*, and all the other fathers of heavenly Musick had been present, which so attracted the senses of the Prince, as his memory began to wax dolefull and forgetfull imagining himself in a very beatitude, where he seemed to see, not onely the perfect beauty of a Goddess but a divine shadow, which carried away both his heart and eyes in contemplation.

Of the like opinion was the young Princess, marvelling at the brave constitution of her Knight, and esteeming her self beyond all other in happiness, that Fortune had sorted her out such a husband: and in sooth these Lovers were the fairest couple that ever were joynd in marriage together, not unjustly compared to *Leander* and *Hero*, the two godliest stars that were in these times. In this surpassing contentation, they continued till a Damosell (understanding that supper was prepared) there set before them a Table ready covered, the wood whereof was very precious, delivering a savour much like to Balm, and thereon was set all sorts of costly viands: hard by stood a Cupboard richly adorned with Basons and Cups of gold, which were embellished with such precious stones, as the value of them was reputed inestimable.

But

But these Lovers could eat very little, because they had work enough to regard each other; for there is nothing in the world more agreeable to one enamoured, then to contemplate the object of his thoughts, because love making a breach into the body, and planting his siege against the very soul, hinders the passage of nourishing meats, and makes them feed on his lovely divises which are such as every one of you that have tasted thereof, can best apprehend the pleasure and sweetness thereof. Hence proceeds delightful dreams and fancies of the mind, when the eye taketh a full view, and the libel brought of the object beloved through the penetrals and rays of the stomach; which graves on the heart the perfect portrait of the thing beloved. And what morsel more delicious, what wine more pleasant, or liquor more ambrosious can one find wherewith to satisfy the soul espized with the branden of Venus, then the exact contemplation and secret discourse, which the spirit maketh to his onely choice, when he beholdeth himself reciprocally beloved of her whom he loveth; doubtless none at all: happily some other might be spoken of which seem to yield more content, but then they are transitory, and of no continuance.

In this sort supped *Palmendos* and *Francelina*, when the damosels withdrawing the Table, went to take their own refection, leaving these twain to digne together: Then approached the Knight to the Mistress of his heart, and said, O dame how happy may I name the hour of my nativity, seeing the celestial bodies appointed me such a planet as made me gain the honour of your love: Now know I that so truth which you told me in the Temple at Delphos, that in short time I should see you at mine own pleasure. Command then I beseech you, what you would have me do, and show me the way to gather some fruit by the perpetuall service I have vowed to your divine beauty, that I may give some cooling to the unquenchable flame, wherein my heart is more and more tormented. The Princess replied my Lord, I cannot but admire to hear you say that you have seen me in another place: In sooth at the age of threë years I was fatal-

ly inclosed in this Castle, where never since entred Knight
or any other stranger, but only you. As for my request,
whereto you have promised, this it is, That you attempt not
against my chastity, until our marriage be solemnly perform-
ed, which may not be, till you first have rescued the King of
Thessaly my father, from the long imprisonment wherein the
Turk hath kept him. This adventure you must needs un-
dertake, which doubtless you shall worthily effect and so be
Lord of me, and of the Realm of Thessaly, whereto I am
lawful heir after my fathers decease; for performance where-
of, I commit myself into your custody, provided you keep
your former promise.

Palmiendos attentively notes her words, and afterward
remained a while silent, imagining whether he should send
or accompany his Lady to the Emperour, or in mean space
keep himself unknown to any, till he had ended the adven-
ture in Turkey, bringing at his return the King of Thessaly
with him, if the heavens favoured him in his deliberance;
at length breaking off this silent determination, he answer-
ed in this sort. Madam, so fervent and inexpressible is the
love I bear you, as to gain the Monarchy of the whole world,
I would not offend the very least of your virtuous thoughts:
And albeit I had not promised what you required, my own
regard should have taught me better government, for I
account my self the happiest Knight under heaven, not by
any honour or praise gotten in this adventure, but onely to
see my self subject to such incomparable beauty, and one so
nobly descended. And now Madam as I shall not ac-
count any pains or travel too much for you, thinking my self
sufficiently happy that the stars do so fortunately shine up-
on me in this season. I shall intreat you not to return to
your fathers house, but I will leave you to the Emperours
charge, the Prince whom I love and desire to serve, bear-
ing patiently the burthen of my grief in your silence, till
time allow us a precious meeting. He assures her of, assur-
ed, my noble Lord (quoth she) that never shall I love
any but you to whom the fatal accidents have onely appoint-

ed me, and no lesse will my torment be in your absence, then yours, being now deprived of my former liberty and the same transferred to your disposing.

Spending the time thus in amorous conference, at length he told her all that hapned to him in the Temple at Delphos, where if he saw her not in person, yet he did behold her lively representation, and had a great deal of talk with her; whereat *Francelina* could not but marvel, yet commending the wisdom of the *Fayres* in appointing her so noble a Husband. Now she desires to understand his name and birth, wherewith at large he truly acquainting her, yet willing her she should not rebeale it to any till he returned with the King of *Thessaly* her Father. When did he give her the Ring, which he received of the Queen his Mother when he came to *Tharsus*, requesting her to keep it carefully, because he must shew it to the Emperour his Father, as the token whereby she should discern him to be his son.

CHAP. XXII.

How *Palmiendos* and *Francelina* going to the Queen of *Thessaly*, met without the Castle divers Knights and Ladies of the Isle, which attended their coming: What reverence the Lord of the Isle did him; and how he brought the Queen to see the Castle.



Highly pleased was the Princess *Francelina* when she knew her spouse to be Son to the Emperour *Palmerin* and all this night they beguiled the time with sundry discourses pleasing to them both. The next morning, the Princess brought her love to behold her stately Lodging, where she caused him to put on a costly black Armour left there by the *Fairies* purposely for him,

as also a goodly Tower, by vertue whereof he might bring such as him pleased into a sound sleep: so causing two Damascels to bear his helmet and Lance, they intended to walk forth of the Castle.

Now shined faire Francelina brighter then the morning star, her head attired adorned all over with Carbuncles, Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds and Orientall Sapphires, and her upper Garment being a long robe of cloth of Gold, curiously figured with pearls and precious stones, as the value thereof was imagined inestimable. In this and far greater pomp then I can set down, they left the Castle, meeting by the way sundry Knights and Ladies of the Isle, and among them all was an ancient brave Gentleman, Father to the three Princes, whom they invested in the Government of this Isle, after their death he falling on his knee befoze Palmendos and Francelina, delivered these speeches. Adventurous and most fortunate Knight happy was the Planet that rules at thy birth, seeing that by thy vertue and wonderfull prowesse, thou hast made this place accessible, which so long time hath continued full of Trouble. Reverend Sir (answered Palmendos) the Soveraigne bounty hath made me the instrument of your good, and therefore I rejoyce a great deal the more: if you be either Father, Uncle, or allied to those noble Dames, that by their knowledge have done so much for me, I give you all the right here to be had by the Conquest of Francelina. I humbly thank you Sir (answered the Knight of the Isle) for offering me such a courteous gift, wherof I am altogether unworthy, albeit my Daughters by their secret Philosophy in this action still directed your course: but leave we these speeches till better opportunity, and go we to comfort the Queen of Thessaly, who on the Bridge attendeth your coming; for till you have brought her Daughter over the Bridge, the enchantments are not ended, and then shall the Castle be in the former state, as it was when Francelina came first hither. And is my gracious Queen and Mother here (said the Princes,) then I see my joyes will meet altogether.

So walked they willingly over the bridge, attended on by many Lords, Barons, and Ladies, when the Queen seeing her daughter come towards her; hardly could she restrain from swooning in the arms of Ozalio, who was likewise ready to do as much at the joyfull sight of his friend Palmendos, yet at length she embraced her daughter, saying.

What abundance of tears have issued from mine eyes since the time I saw my beloved daughter? How many bitter anguishes of heart have I endured, and breathed in numerable sighs and clamors into the air, for the absence of thee and the King thy father, every hour expecting the release of you both from imprisonment? How irksome is the remembrance (Oh perfect substance of mine intrails) that I was a mother so cruell and severe to banish thee so long time from me? But herein I consented to the persuasion of the Fairies, who promised that by thy imprisonment, I should recover the King my husband out of thralldome; it now remaineth whether their words will sort to effect or no. Wherefore (Sir Knight) seeing you have elevated the soul that lay despairing in the clouds of extremitie, by delivering my daughter from these magical charms, let me intreat thee to follow thy fortune, and accomplish all my joys together, in restoring him for whom this sorcery was invented that the remainder of our life may be more happy then it hath been since the time we first met together.

Palmendos sorrowing to see the Queen thus lament, encouraged her in this. Good Madam torment not your self with any further grief, seeing I have determined to lose my life, or else to bring with me the King of Thessaly: in the mean space assuage your sorrows by the presence of your daughter, whom the heavens have allotted to be my wife, and thereby confirmed you my gracious mother. By this time the Knight of the Isle had made such provision in the Castle as they might lodge according to their content, because more contentment place there was not near at hand, and there three days they sported themselves in pleasure, marvelling at the ingenious devices there framed.

med by the Fairies, so that the Castle seemed as a terrestrial Paradise. Which Palmendos perceiving and that it was seated in a sweet and Fertile Climate, he intended to send for people of his own Native Countrey, whereby it might be better inhabited, and because some memory of him and *Francelina* might be reserved to following posterities.

The Knight of the Isle feasted them very Royally, and nothing was wanting that might any way Delight them: when Palmendos falling into Conference with the Queen, desired that she would Accompany her Daughter to Constantinople, there to stay with her in the Emperors Court, as sent from him: and that she would moreover assure his Majesty, that he having finished his voyage into Turkey, would no longer conceal himself as he had done. My noble Son (quoth the Queen) I shall willingly performe what you have appointed; but I would know if you mean to take any strength with you against the Turk, because I would send for Aid to Thessaly, and beseech crabe assistance of the Emperour who I am sure will succour me with all his legions. Gracious Madam and Mother (answered Palmendos) I will take no other company with me, then I brought hither, for such business must be done rather by adventurous hazards, then by bringing forces into the Field: so that were yours and all the Emperours united together, yet should we never compass our intent that way. But you shall understand that I being upon the Sea not long since, met with the King of Culaquin, Son in Law to the great Turk, as he coasted along Thrace, with his Robbers and Pyrates, only to endamage the Empire so far as he might: perceiving how hap I took him prisoner, and sent him to his Majesty at Constantinople: If happily by secret subtlety I cannot prevail, I shall move an Exchange of these two Kings, colouring the matter with many plausible reasons: in brief I will do as the occurrences shall best advise me. Wherein I hope the divine bounty will direct me the best course, that I may compass the issue of mine affectionate desire.

The

The Queen rejoyced very much, when she heard that the King of Culaquiu was likewise prisoner, and hoping to have her Husband in exchange for him, she more diligently hastened the departure of Palmendos; the like (though loath to leave his company so soon) did fair Francelina, not doubting but her Lord and Husband would soon return; and knit up all their joys with the presence of the King her father.

CHAP. XXIII.

How the Queen of Thessaly and Francelina her Daughter, departing from the Isle of Carderia, were accompanied on the way by Palmendos and Ozalio, when taking their leave each of other, the Queen and her Daughter rode to the Emperours Court, where they were very graciously entertained.



Thus are these Lovers to part asunder, but the causes being urgent they are constrained to make a vertue of necessity, wherefore taking their leave of the Knight of the Isle, as also of the Lords and Barons that so friendly bare them company all this while, after many amorous and ceremonious courtesies, accompanied, with sighs, tears, and sorrowful looks, and they had brought them half a days journey on the way, Palmendos and Ozalio rode toward the sea side, where they had left order that their Ship should meet them.

The Queen and her Daughter, without any trouble to hinder their journey, arrived at the City of Constantinople, sending one of her Knights to the Emperour to let him understand the cause of her coming; as also the discourse of all that had happened. The Knight discharging his duty as he was commanded, his Majesty requested to know his name, who had so fortunately delivered Francelina, where

Lord answered the Challenger, he is called *Palmendes*, the
 most valiant and courteous Knight of all these parts of the
 world. Much good have I heard of the man, said the Em-
 perour, but cometh he now in company with the Queen?
 So my Lord, replied the Knight, because the future deli-
 verance of our King, hath prosecuted his journey into Turkey.
 When the Emperour commanded *Primalcon* and his Ba-
 rons, to go accompany the Queen and her Daughter to the
 Court, which they with all diligence performed, for that
 the fame and renown spread of her through all those Regi-
 ons, increased their desire to behold her. *Arnedes* likewise
 would have gone with them, but as yet he was not perfect-
 ly recovered, and beside he wearied daily very melancholly,
 seeing the Embassadors of France stayed so long, nor could
 he hear any tidings of his Cousin *Recinde*. The Queen of
 Thessaly and her Ladies came attired in mourning black,
 expressing her sorrow for the King her Husband: but
Francelina like glorious *Cynthia*, in her chiefest pride,
 clothed (as you have heard) in most stately Ornaments,
 drew every eye to behold her beauty. *Primalcon* having
 saluted the Queen, gave her place and rode with the Prin-
 cesse her Daughter, when carried away in conceit with her
 surpassing feature, he entered into these speeches. He thinks
 (*Parasani*) the Fairies were too much injurious, to lock up
 in prison such admirable beauty, in that any gentle heart
 beholding you, would the sooner adventure for the King your
 Father, having such a gracious reward set down for his
 travail: wherefore *Palmendes* hath good occasion to boast
 if fortune permit him not to deliver the King of Thessaly.
 And I quoth *Francelina*, account my happiness nothing
 inferior, gaining thereby the most valiant and debonaire
 Knight, that ever enterprised actions of Chivalry, which
 makes me esteem the Fairies wise and discreet, by imprisoning
 me in the enchanted Castle, for very few would have thrust
 their lives in perill having once seen me, where contrari-
 wise to get honour by the adventure, they made proof of that
 which was only destined for *Palmendes*, he being the man
 that

that justly may be called the flower of Knights.

In this matter I will not contend with you, answered Primacon, for the vertues and graces of your beloved, is such, as no man worthily may be compared with him, wherefore you have good reason to affect him; and he likewise is bound to constant permanency, if your divine looks have pierced his heart as they ought. The Emperour and the Emperesse, with Philocrista and their other daughters came to the Palace gate to welcome the Queen: when she and her daughter alighted from their palfreys, with humble reverence saluted his Majesty, who with his Emperesse honourably entertained them conducting them into the great Hall, where the Queen began in this manner,

Most mighty and intinctible Monarch, Palmendos the noble Jewel of Knight-hood, by us kisseth the hand of your imperfall Majesty, having sent you this young Princess to be kept under your protection, till he return from Turkey with my espoused Lord the King of Thessaly, if fortune grant his deliverance from the cruel infidels, for which I continue in hourly devotion, as well for the great desire I have to see the King my husband, as also to see the Knights speedily return, who onely dedicated his travells to your highnesse service. With these words she deliver her daughter to his Majesty, and the Emperour received her very graciously, shewed himself exceeding joyfull for their arrival, desiring them to use his Court as their own, and to be as frolick there as if they were in Thessaly. Beside, he prayed God so to direct Palmendos in his attempt as he might deliver the King her husband from captivity: withall, that if he had requested assistance in the cause, he should have had his Majesties power at command: then taking Francelina by the hand he said. To your Daughter Philocrista, I commit the honourable charge of this young Princess untill such time her Knight be returned. My Lord answered Philocrista: I shall right willingly fulfill your commandement, being

no less glad of such a companion, then to have the Lady present with us for whom such rare acts of Chivalry have been performed, the Emperess took the Queen by the hand, and Philocrista her charge Francelina, they all sitting down under a sumptuous Canopy where the knights regarding them, especially the Emperess and the two Princesses, imagined a second judgement for the Apple of beauty. And admit we Arnedes for the gentle Shepheard Paris, yet he imagined his Philocrista to be most perfect, although Francelina was very far beyond her, all the knights concluding that they had never seen more chaste beauty, except the Emperess when she was in the flower of her youth. But Philocrista never attained her mothers perfections, albeit she had two sisters named Florida and Bazilia (which by the author of *Palmerin* are named Belisa and Melicia) that came very near her in resemblance, especially Florida of whom we shall have occasion to speak hereafter, when we come to the noble Prince Edward of England.

The Emperour intricated Francelina, to tell him (if she could) of whence *Palmendos* was, whereat the Princess more fully thus answered. Dear Lord, I can reveal no further of him, then that he is commander of a Kingdom, and divers other Signorities of great estate: what else I know of him, I am to be excused till his coming, when himself will manifest his Country and originall, not his valour and courtesie, for that is blazed through most parts of the world. For this discreet answer, she was greatly commended by the Emperour, who noting her comely gestures and behaviour, esteemed her discreet and well advised: and seeing the Ring on her finger that *Palmendos* gave her, he thought it very much resembled his own Ring, which the Queen of Tharsus gave him at his departure. Now could he not contain himself, but demands of her, of whom she had that costly Jewel, so like one that he held in great estimation; she answered, that *Palmendos* gave it her, after her deliverance from the Isle of Carderia, whereat his Majesty greatly marvelling imagined

the thought to be the Queen of Tharsus son. Now was he much more desirous to see him turn before, remembering what kindness she showed him in the realm of Palmeria: then casting his own Ring to be brought, and compared with that the Princess wore, they were found in every point so like and conformable as hardly could the one be known from the other. So that they were made both by one Workman, and magically charmed like in resemblance, as the perfect signal to discover the original of *Palmendos*: which made the Emperour conceive some suspicion, that this unknown Knight should be his Son, especially when he called the Queens dark speeches to memory, which he also after her acquaintance with him. Yet would he not reveal this doubt to any one, but pass it over with fresh welcoming the Queen and her Daughter, and delighting in speeches, that he was glad *Belcar* kept not the Bridge, when it was *Palmendos* fortune to arrive there, yet was he sorry for *Lirendos* mishap: albeit he commended the courtesie of the Conquerour, in saying no further on the Prince of *Mecana*.

But leave the *Palmendos* and *Ozario* travelling toward Turkey, and speak a little of *Recinde* the Castilian Prince, being one of them that followed in his search.

CHAP. XXIII.

How Recinde pursuing the search of Palmendos, rescued a Merchant from five Thieves, whom he discomfited on the mountain: And how by the means of an Archer that bent his Bow against him he came to the mouth of a deep Cave, where he killed a Lion that kept it, and delivered thence a Lady, which was enchanted into the shape of a Serpent.



Recinde leaving *Constantinople*, for the same cause as the other Knights did, happened to the same place where *Palmendos* lodged the night before, demanding of his Host, if he had seen any such man: who made this answer, Truly the same.

same man that had the honour of the Journey, was my guest this last night, and never did I see a more courteous Gentleman, which makes me hope he will end the adventures of Francellina, whither he is gone as he told me he would. With these words the Spaniard was well contented, minding to follow him to the Isle of Carderia, and riding by the way, he heard a very lamentable cry, which caused him to look about, when he espied one hanging on a tree by the arms, and five villains hard by making a fire, to woe some men they had killed on the mountain. Coming to the man that hung in this woful plight, he cut him down: and understanding that these villains had robbed and misused him, he caused the Merchant to take his weapon, and so they sitting upon the thieves slew three of them, driving the other to flight: by which means the Merchant has most of his Treasure again; for which he thanked the Prince: and mounting on horseback, he accompanied him on the way.

Not far had they gone, but they met a Knight unarmed, of huge constitution and well-servanted, having a Turkis bow in his hand, and a Quiver hanging by his bow full of Arrows, of whom they desired to know which way they should get out of the forest: The discourteous Knight (without making any answer) let fly an arrow at them, wherewith he killed the Prince Recindes horse: he being not a little moved at this mishap, grew into great choler against him, who made no longer stay, but ran from them so fast as he could. Recinde and the Merchant still pursued, till having lost the sight of him, and marvelling where he should be hid, at length they found the mouth of a very dark Cave, which they suspected the Knight had taken for refuge: whereupon the Prince intreated the Merchant to stay there without, because he intended to search the Cave, and he returned on him that had so wronged him.

Not far had he gone under the earth, but he heard a pitiful voice crying for help, which caused him to returne back again, when at the entrance of the Vault he beheld a mighty Lion, which came scathily with the Knight, and ran

upon the Prince extending his foot. By 1. but he who could not be frighted with matters of greater moment, so valiantly defended himself against the beast, as in short time he laid him dead at his foot. Now ran the Knight back again into the Cave, and the Prince after him so fast as he could, till at length he came into a goodly Hall, which was hang'd about with gorgeous Tapestries, and therein might one behold all such as pass'd by the mouth of the Cave, as if they had discerned the same in a Glass. While he stood beholding this beautiful prospect, he saw the Knight coming towards him armed, and drawing his Sword, thus spake to the Prince.

Wretched Knight, overmuch foolish hardnesse hath brought thee to this place; for I shall let thee see the danger incurred by thy presumption. More indelicately (quoth the Prince) hast thou behaved thy self in killing my Horse without any occasion of offence. Herewith they combated a long while together, till the Knight finding himself unable to resist the Prince, would have saved himself in the chamber he came from, offering to keep the door against him as his defence: but Recinde thinking alike him into the chamber, he beheld a great and hideous Dragon lying there, the sight whereof somewhat amazed him; yet seeing the beast stirr'd not against him, he continued his former quarrel with the Knight, bringing him at length into such subjection, that with his Sword he smote his head from his shoulders. The Serpent terrified with extreme fear, began to shrink back, when Recinde lifting up his Sword to strike, the Serpent gave in this manner.

Sir Knight, for Gods sake pity me, and seek not to shed my blood, having no way offended you: so shall I be perpetually bound at your commandment, for delivering me from this cruel Knight, who hath forcibly kept me here the space of six years. The Prince hearing these words, held down his Sword, when the Serpent thus procreed. I am no Serpent Sir, as happily I seem in your eye, but a most unfortunate and abused Damsel having suffered the most

most miserable life that ever woman endured, living (against my will) in the custody of this traitorous Knight. If thou art a humane creature (answered Reclinde) I marvel thou shouldst have the shape of a deformed beast. I know (saide the Damosel) what representation I have in your judgement; but I dare assure you on my life that I am no Serpent or any thing else but a most distressed woman. Which well she might affirm, because the Knight now saine, to conceal her the more cunningly, made her to resemble so by Art magick, as you shall understand the whole at large.

He loved this Damosel so extremely, she being the Daughter of an ancient wisdom, dwelling not far off, as seeing he could not obtain her in marriage, by reason of his bad manners, and ill favoured body so laboured with a Magician, a friend of his, to cause her to resemble a Serpent to any but himself. Her mother and brethren (being ignorant of this treachery) seeing such an ugly Serpent among them, were so affrighted at this strange metamorphosis, that they flew presently out of their Castle. The Damosel following to understand the cause of their fear, wandered sorrowfully after them through the fields, where she was surprised by her Lover, and brought to the Cave prepared by the Sorcerer, appointing that she should continue in that appearance, untill one of the best Knights in the world should arrive there, and valiantly win her out of his custody, onely by his death to be delivered, and six years she had abode in that place, seeming a beautiful woman to her Lover onely, and to all others a monstrous Serpent.

Reclinde fallen into wonderfull admiration bemoaning her cause, thus spake. In sooth this is the most strange accident that ever I heard of; but seeing your Lover is dead, boldly may you depart the Chamber, and return home to your Mother again; for in time (perhaps) this hideous shape will forsake you. My Lord (quoth she) I have many times striven to get forth of this prison, but all my labour hath been in vain; for by this sorcellage hath the Knight bound

bound me here as he got me from my mothers Castle. So am I perswaded (answers the Prince) wherefore seeing of your self you cannot depart, I will try if my strength will release you of this servitude. Then taking his arming girdle from about him, he made it fast about the Serpents middle, and fiercely thought to pull her out of the Chamber; but the strength of the enchantment over-mastering him, when he had gotten her to the very door, would violently pluck her back again. Yet Recinde being all heart and courage, gave not over for all these resistances, but at length by exceeding labour and travail he got her into the Hall, and then she seemed a very beautiful Woman, who falling down at his feet, intreated him not to forsake her, till that he had brought her to her mothers Castle. So going forth of the Cave, he told the Merchant all that had happened, which made him answer her in this sort.

Parasme, both you and I are highly beholding to this Knight; for he hath miraculously called you from a lamentable sufferance, and not onely hath he saved my life, but helped me to my Goods again which were utterly lost: wherefore we have good cause to think that he is the onely Paragon of Chivalry. So breaking off these speeches, they took the Knights horse, because he had slain the Prince, and mounting the Damsel behind him, brought her home to her mothers Castle, the ancient Lady being not a little joyful to see her Daughter, whom she reputed utterly lost: likewise her Brethren were very glad to see their sister restored home again. As for their friendly Entertainment you may judge it by the cause, which being of nature must needs surpass all other.

CHAP. XXV.

How Recinde arrived at the Isle of Carderia, where understanding that Palmendos had ended the adventure, he went to seek Belcar at Macedon: and of the Combat he had with him, by the false perswasion of the Damoſel that followed the revenge of her Brethrens deaths.



Our vales ſaid Recinde and the Merchant at the old Ladies Caſtle, and then taking their leave the Prince commended the merchant to his own occaſions, and he rode ſtraight toward the Iſle of Carderia, deſirous to try his fortune in the adventure, as alſo to find the Knight he ſought for: but being there arrived, he underſtood how Francolina was deliuered, Palmendos gone towards Turkie, and Tirendos abode at the Caſtle with Lyes and his ſiſters, from whence he ſent a Squire to Macedon, to certiſie Belcar what had happened, as alſo to intreat him to ſtay there for his coming.

As ſo the Prince Belcar, by being now with Alderina his choſen Miſtreſs, to the ſhock of all circumſtances enter-courſing between them, would be more labour to me then pleaſure to you. She accuſeth him with a great many articles of ungentleneſs that he would traile for Francoline, being beſore her choſen Knight; and he excuſeth all under this point, that what he did in a place of ſuch trepal, was only to eternize the name of Alderina, and nothing to the advantage of Francoline; nor could the greateſt Monarch on the earth have commanded him from that ſervice but only the gracious Letter ſent by her. Wherefore he deſired to return thither again, to make her more famous till the adventure were ended. To ſtay her answer, and appeaſe his hot deſires, at that very inſtant the Courier arrived ſent from Tirendos, whoſe meſſage being heard, highly was the Princeſs contented, but Belcar overcome with exceeding grief, becauſe ſain he would have tryed his fortune againſt Palmendos.

Gate

Now come we to the Damosel again, that pursued Belcar for the death of her brethren according as you have sufficiently heard before. She understanding y^e he was in the court of Macedon, so highly loved of King and Queen, and the whole nobill y^e she was out of hope to work him any injury there; wherefore she intended to return home again: and by the way she hoped to meet with the Prince Recinde, when beginning her accustomed complaints, she delivered the same of course which she had bore to Gardino and Florendos, saying, that the King he who had so trayterously slain her brethren, sojourned in the Court of Macedon.

Recinde desirous to win honour by succouring the distressed, and hoping he might find the Knight he sought for at Macedon, answered her in this manner. If it be, damosel, as you say, that the Knight in such such trayterous sort slew your brethren, I promise you, by the faith I bear to Chivalry that to my power I will revenge your wrong, because all Gentlemen receiving this Oyer, are bound by duty to assist Damosels injuriously wronged by disloyal barlets. The crafty deceiver fell at the Princes feet, affirming what he had said with many oaths. So then with me (quoth Recinde) to shew me the Knight, and either I will lose my life, or make him confess his villany. The effronted palliard mounted on her palfrey, and such speed they made in travel, as at length they arrived, at Macedon, when entering the hall they found there the King Belcar, and others noble Barons, whereupon the Damosel thus spake to Recinde.

See here my Lord, the Knight that slew my brethren: I beseech y^e make him know before the King the treason he committed against harmless men: for his Majesty not knowing the enormity of the case, reputeth this offender to be one of the most courteous Knights in his Court as myself perceived at my last being here. Recinde having with humble reverence saluted the King Florendos, turned to Belcar with these speeches, Sir Knight, this Damosel hath sworn to me that you have trayterously slain two of her brethren, after you had been friendly entertained at her fathers house: if
 you

you did so, sure'y it was an act far unbefitting you, and by force of arms I shall make you so to confess it, if you have the hardiness to enter the field with me. Belcar greatly offended to hear himself so charged, and overcome by one that sought to bring his life in danger, in anger thus replied,

In sooth Knight, I cannot but think thy discretion very ample, in saying, if I have the hardiness to enter the field with thee; and thy presumption is as insolent, as this Damocel is troublesome and disloyal, in accusing me without any cause: notwithstanding I hope to recompence you for light belief, and that false woman likewise, the instrument of thy loss. After these speeches he went and armed himself for the Combat, which the King many waies laboured to hinder; but Recinde continued so resolutely against Belcar, that the King could not dissuade the matter, wherefore he thus spake to Recinde,

When you will not at my intreaty give over this rashness, let me understand the name of him that will not grant so small a matter, especially to one that is able to yield thanks therefore. I am (quoth Recinde) a Knight of a strange Country, who came to the Emperors Court at Constantinople, mean while the Nuptials of the Hungarian Prince were solemnized, whither likewise came a Knight unknown, bearing a silver flower in his shield: he having won the honour of the Tourney, departed secretly from the Assembly, which made me follow in search of him: and in respect I am but a poor Knight errant, I desire no reward may be offered me in the Battel. Wherefore assured unto the King, that none shall meddle with you but your Adversary only: And trust me it grieveth me to the very heart that coming from the Court of the Emperour Palmerin my Son, you should here enter the field against Belcar who is one of his Majesties chiefest Favourites. When Recinde heard Belcar named, on the one side it displeased him, that he was to deal with a Knight so famous and renowned: on the other side it grieved him as much, when he considered the near alliance between him and Melicia, whom he loved as his very soul,

so that willingly he would have forborn the combat but that he could not with-hold or get sap it.

Now the King desires the Duke of Pontus, and another of his chiefest Barons to judge the fight according to conscience and without any exception of person. Soon after the champions enter the Lists, where breaking their Lances bravely in the career, they were both dismounted: notwithstanding they quickly recovered themselves, and drawing their swords fell to the Combat. Long while they continued a most furious fight, sharp and cruel wounds being belthered on either side, that judgement could not be given who was in greatest danger: but his Majesty seeing Belcar was feeble, and that it was like this fight would end both their lives, as one loth to see the death of either, he threw the staff of peace between them; and coming down from the tribune, where he stood into the field, he desired them at his request to give over the fight. My gracious Lord, answered Rescinde that may we not consent unto, unless the Damsell that complaineth of Belcar, will first remit the injury he hath done her. My self will thereto persuade her, said the King, in mean while do you travele no further in this controversy, seeing you have both selves sufficient and haughty chivalry.

So went the King to the Damsell, who was wonderfull glad to see Belcar in such dangerous estate, as no Knight before had brought him in the like. Damsell (said he) I see not the death of two so good Champions as these are, but (for my sake) pardon Belcar, if he have in ought offended, and I will cause him to make such amends, as you self shall like well thereof: besides such courtesy shall you find at my hands, as happily shall yield correction of wrongs while you live. Hereto will I never consent, though I die (quoth she) and more would the present death of Belcar content me, then if the whole Monarchy of the world were under my puissance, considering the enorm and detestable treason wherewith he hath villainously wronged my father and brethren, which makes me I cannot discharge my Knight

of this promise, The King with great instance intreated her again, and so did all the Lords attending on him: but all was in vain, she was so resolutely grounded in her wickedness, as she accounted it pleasure to be left to her desires. Whereupon, the Queen (heartily sorry to see Belcar so sore wounded) understanding the obstinate refusal of the Damofel; she accompanied with the Dutcheſs of Pontus, and the Princess Alderina her daughter, came altogether and desired her, to discharge her Knight of his promise, and the Queen would entertain her amongst the Ladies of Honor in her Court.

In these prayers and requests nothing availed, to move any pity in this inexorable Damofel; which the Queen perceiving, and that she continued so obstinate in cruelty, she made a solemn Oath, that if she did not presently pardon the two Knights, (hearing a murmuring among the people, how her accusations against Belcar were false and slanderous) that her self would die a most shameful death. The Damofel seeing the Queen so displeased, was afraid of her wrath, and before she grieved to behold the tears of fair Alderina, wherefore she alighted from her Palfrey, and falling at the Queens feet, begged her not to regard her great error of ingratitude, which she had shewed to the King her Husband, in denying a matter consisting in her power: but for her Majesties sake, she was content to pardon both the Knights. The Queen embraced her in sign of thanks, sending words to Recinde, that she would proceed no further in battle. So the Damofel went with the Queen and her Ladies to the Palace, and both the Champions accompanied the King, who bringing them to their Chambers, commanded that his chief Physicians and Chirurgians should give very diligent attendances to see their wounds healed.

Daily would the Queen, accompanied with the Dutcheſs of Pontus, and the fair Princess Alderina her daughter come to visit them, so that at length they reconciled the two Princesses to amity; and shortly after, the Queen (in regard of her promise) caused the Damofel to be very honorably married,

married, when Belcar made her openly confesse, that her accusations were most false and untrue, in respect that he never saw any of her brethren, before that night wherein he was intreated by her father to lodge at his Castle. But leave we these, and now let us now return again to our noble Knight *Palmendos*, whom we left preparing his Voyage towards *Turkie*.

CHAP. XXVI.

How after Palmendos and Ozalio embarked for Turkey, they landed at a Port near the Castle of Albaizo, where the King of Thessaly was kept prisoner: and how Palmendos intended to be at the Tourney, which was prepared for the marriage of the Captains son, and what was his success.



After that *Palmendos* and *Ozalio* had left the Queen of *Thessaly*, and her Daughter *Francelina*, they parted with all speed to their Ship: the Partners having in the time of their abode there, happened on a Bark left there in the Haven by reason of extreme sickness, whereto they of *Tharsus*, knowing him to be a Moor, took him into their Ship, and by the time of the Princess arrival, he had very well recovered his health. He understanding that *Palmendos* would sail into *Turky* desired to grant him passage thither, and in recompence of that gentleness, he would direct him whither he pleased, because he knew all the Ports and Creeks of the Country, and most of the Cities and Towns in the Land.

Palmendos for all of this good bay, accepted him for his Patron, and without concluding to what place they would first sail, he willed them to make tow'rd the nearest Port to the City of *Tubne*, demanding of the Turk if he knew any Harbour of safety near that place. My Lord (quoth the Turk)

Lark) I will conduct you, if you please, into a streight of the Sea which is very secret, where oftentimes ride divers great Gallies, and no other place of Lodging is near at hand, but my Fathers house onely, which standeth a days journey from Tubano, and the like from the Castle of Albayzo, where the great Lark at this present keeps the King of Thessaly and all his Treasure, under the charge of a good Knight who is the Captain of the Castle, and his place he reputeth as the strongest Hold in all the Country. For sover this dare I avouch Sir that there is no part so little in all that Country, but I know it as well by night as by day, even as perfectly as the Port whereof I tell you: there may you abide in assurance, and do what best your self as I please uncontroled by any, this will I make good for the great conteste I have found. Palmendos seeing how fortune favoured him, committed his conducting to the Lark, who was named Oricano, when at length they came to the Port near Tubano: then Oricano went on shore with the Knights, to take some order for their good entertainment; but finding not his father at home, intreated his mother and two brethren, who were not a little glad of his safe return, to use these Gentlemen so courteously as might be, expressing what kindness he had found at their hands.

Palmendos rejoiced that they were in a place so sure and secret, and near Albayzo Castle, where the King of Thessaly was detained in captivity, yet kept he on his rich black Armour, which the Fairies left for him at the Castle of Carderia, his good Sword likewise he had by his side, wherewith he could enchant and bring asleep any one by drawing it forth. It was large and short as a bodkin or lanceton, most artificially damasked and garnished with three sorts of Diamonds, the whole Sheath being composed of one, the Pommel-bar and Pommel of another, and the Handle of the crest rare and precious Calamite that ever was seen, the Blade of the finest tempered Steel that could be in any sword: in brief, the like Weapon was hardly to be found through the world.

By this time Oricano's father was come home, who rejoycing to behold his son, shewed very loving countenance to the Prince's for his sake: when amongst other talk Palmendos requested to know of the old man whence he came so late, whereunto the poor man humbly thus answered. I come, Sir, from a Town not far hence, whither I went in the morning to sell fish, because great number of Knights are assembled there, against the marriage of the Lords daughter, with the son to the Captain of Albayzo Castle: and I stayed the longer, to see the Bydegroom and his Sister, who is reported to be the fairest woman in the world. By many great Princes she hath been requested in marriage, but she hath refused every one, saying she will never be married, but with him that can win her by martial prowess: for which cause many brave and gallant Knights are come thither, and on the third day of the least have appointed a Tourney for her love, the resort being so great to see this Lady, as if the great Turk with all his Baskas and Janizaries kept Court there,

Palmendos attentively noting this tale, considered with himself, that if he could by subtil traines entice this Lady to Love, he might easily get into Albayzo Castle, where he should the better compass the Stratagem, to set the King of Thissaly at liberty. For this cause he determined to be present at the Tourney, and in his acquaintance Ozilio with his whole intent, who thought it the onely way to work their Enterprize. On the morrow Palmendos told the Sister that he would make one in the List: so giving him good store of Money, he prayed him to regard his Ship and Partners till he returned, and so he set forth with Ozilio and Orycano, who served them faithfully during all this business.

Yet far had they rid, but they met with a Page that attended on Mida, for so was the beautiful Virgin named, the Captains Daughter, and occasion of this Exhamp. Palmendos then asked him if the Tourney held the day following. It doth, Sir, (answered the Page) by general agreement,

ment, and so please you to be there, you shall see many valiant knights enter the field, where I hope the paraders of Ripole (for so was the Woodsgrown called) shall bear away the honour of the day: and sundry brave Champions with adventure for the love of Missa my Mistress, whereby they may gain the better mean to offer up their service, intending therefore to be on her brothers side, who is the chief man in this Enterprize.

The Prince calling to mind the perfections of Francelina, breathed forth a sigh that came from his very soul: and on the other side he was marvellous glad, that he had so fortunately met with the Ladies Page: and being desirous to gain some acquaintance with her he spake to the youth in this manner. Gentleman, I think the graces of your Mistress to be so amiable, as in one instant they are sufficient to captivate all such as behold her, and therefore I can assure you, that with the better will and more sincere affection is he provided to her service, that never saw her; which I speak on mine own behalf, who abandoning the place of my original, have with insupportable travels cross many Countreys, only to come to let her understand my extreme devotion, to be her perpetual and faithful servant, whereunto the renown of her beauty induced me, which I think is spread over the face of the whole earth. And seeing my day was so good to meet with you, altho' you know me not, nor have I yet deserved any thing at your hands: yet let me intreat you to do one favour for me, the issue whereof, becom your achievement of notable reputation in dishonourable courtships, which all of your young yeares ought to have in singular commendation: I hope I shall let you sufficiently perceive, that you deal not for an ingrateful person, nor will ye mistake your travel in the cause.

What would you have me do? answered the Page, in respect you seem a man of honour and quality: if it be a thing possible for me and honourable, I will with all my heart accomplish it. A thousand thanks for your resolution, answered *Palmendos* and for nothing else is my suit; but that

you would say to your Lady Mistress, how that a strange Gentleman, which came into this Countrey onely to see her Graces and Beauties, most humbly commends himselfe to her favourable opinion, earnestly desiring that she would accept him as her Knight in the Countrey, where to morrow he intends to shew himselfe, as one that will over-balance her most favoured in weight of affection, and will be accounted second to none in exploits of Arms, having no better mean whereby to acquaint her with the insupportable burthen of his heart: and that she may well perceive it, I will not be on her brothers side, but against them that take his part, hoping to send them banquished out of the Field, or make them glad to take their heels, by the strength and hardnesse her owne beauty shall give me, to please her to grant me the aforesaid favour, and which will cause me to account my selfe the most happy Knight on whom the Planets have breathed their celestial influence.

The Page seeing *Palmendos* saile, and so richly armed, imagined him to be some great Personage, wherefore he modestly thus replied. My Lord, this dare I not doe for any man living without I knew th: Party to have some familiarity with my Mistress: nevertheless, being a matter of so small consequence, and that you deserve much more then this on my behalf. I shall deliver her this Message, for your sake who have so importunately requested it. *Palmendos* requited the Page with many thanks, and to make him the more forward in the matter, he took a bracelet of gold from his arm, and gave it him. So beguiling the time with other speeches, at length they arrived at *Prissa* (for so was the Town called where the Triumphs were appointed) the Field being covered all over with costly Pavilions, wherefore *Palmendos* made choice of a convenient place, and there commanded his rich Tent presently to be erected. Mean while the Page courteously took his leave, and entering the Town, went straight to his Mistresss Lodging, where having first dispatched the Answer sent from her

Sister, and seeing her so conveniently apart from her Damocels, he rehearsed all that Palmendos had said unto him. I wonder (quoth she) what the Knight should be, that durst send me such a presumptuous Message, seeing he saith he is a stranger, and for my love hath forsaken his Countrey. Beateve Padams (answer'd the Page) nor do I know him, but he seemeth to be descended of great Parentage, and is one of the goodliest Personages that ever I saw; as for his courtesie and liberality, behold Mistress, what a costly Bracelet he hath given me, that never did any thing for him in all my life.

She thinks this is very strange (replied Iffida) that this Knight should come from far Countreys to see me; and very ingrateful might I be reputed, if I should not thank him for so great pains; therefore sail not, but shew me him to morrow so soon as he doth enter the Lists, that I may give god hard to his behaviour. Herein (quoth the Page) will I accomplish your command, because right well I know him by his rich Armour, as also the lusty Courser he rode on yesterday. Thus made the Page a train for love, which afterwards reaches to the heart of his Mistress, where having kindled the fire her self, she felt the sparks so to leap about her imaginations, as all this night she could enjoy no rest, for thinking on the Knight that came from far Countreys.

CHAP. XXVII.

How Palmendos came to the Tourney appointed for Issila, where he won her by his Knightly Chivalry, and by that occasion obtained her love. And how they spake together by the means of their Ambassador, so that Palmendos and Ozalio easily entered the Castle of Albayzo.



On the morrow which was the appointed day of the Tourney, Issila decked her self in most sumptuous Ornaments, and after Dinner came with the Wise and divers other Ladies, to the Scaffold, and there prepared for them in the field. When assembled the Knights on all sides, and entered the Lists, each one to show his prowess, but because the greater part were on the Hydegroms side, therefore the contrary went about to work and the other were deeply grieved to see the issue out of the field, if Palmendos and Ozalio had not suddenly arrived. For they knew better how to handle their Weapons than the Knights of this Country did, and that they made them very well perceive, chiefly Palmendos, who did marvellous Exploits, as Issila (without any instruction of her Page) knew well enough the Man that sent her the Message; whereat both she and all the beholders were amazed, to see him play the Devil so among the Knights, that no one dealt with him but was unhorsed. When they saw there was no more work to do, they withdrew themselves into their Tent, and would not harm themselves, lest some treachery should be practised against them, as often times at such occasions happeneth, when the vanquished attempt unhonourably against the Conquerors. When Ripole saw his Knights discomfited, he was exceedingly grieved therewith, because he entirely

entirely loved his Sister Isida, and doubted he would not
 combat him of great dishonour: but he, whose mind was
 no where else then on the Knight to whom the Widow was
 true, extolled his admirable Magnanimity to the Heavens,
 as the rest of the History will plainly discover and knowing
 no better mean to work by, he called the Page aside, whom
 the Prince had employed as his Ambassador, and thus he
 spake to him. Unspeakable (in mine opinion) is the gene-
 rocity of the Gentleman Stranger, who hath right well per-
 formed the resolution wherof by this assured me yesterday:
 very necessary it is therefore that thou go thank him on my
 behalf: for his long journey and great pains taken for my
 sake: besides, as he hath sufficiently shewed me his for-
 tune in odds of Arms, so do I desire secretly to see his
 Person, in which request to satisfy me, if he will, his right
 come to my bygoners Banquet, which is provided for the new
 married couple, I shall not fail to esteem him among my
 chiefest Favourites.

While every one was busily conferring on the Congre-
 sour, the Messenger from Isida came to Palmendos Went,
 where briefly discharging what he was commanded, and
 the Prince withal was glad of this good prospect, thus
 answered.

Gentleman, I desire you to tell your Lady, that nothing
 shall make me disappoint her pleasure, because the only oc-
 casion of my long travel, was extream desire to offer her
 my service, and right happy shall I account myself, if she
 will employ me in any thing to her content. To be at the
 Byegonns banquet, me thinks should argue over much
 boldness, in respect of the slender acquaintance and habi-
 tude which as yet I have with him, or any of his company:
 Notwithstanding I would willingly be there after the
 Banquet, to give mine eyes to the place where they might
 see on that celestial and gracious countenance of your
 Mistress, yet with this intreaty beforehand, that I would
 not be known to any what I am. And if it happen I may
 confer a little with her in secret, I will tell her such things

as all the rest of her life time shall yield her contentation, wherein likewise if you will be loyal and labourable to me, to compass both her good and your own: your garrison happily will be such, as you will a hundred and a hundred times think the hour fortunate. When by so good chance you met me on the way; for though you see me here but in simple raiment, and as a knight errant, I am the Lord of many Provinces, great Estates, and wonderfull Riches. My Lord (answered the Page) right willingly will I adventure my person. In doing you all the faithful services can be devised, the actions no way stretching to the dishonour of me and my Lady: and such good order will I likewise take, as you shall not be known to any, but onely her that longeth to see you.

Whereupon Palmendos unarmed himself, and putting on a Turkish mantle, taking his good sword under his arm, he and Ozalio went with the Page into the great Hall, where the Banquet was: afterward they closely got to a convenient place, where both Isida and he might behold each other, which he did but with faint and belabouring looks; onely to add some grace to his subtil determination, which he had practised for the R. of Thessalies deliberance. And while in this counterfeit contemplation he busied his eyes, the Page cunningly went to Isida, and whispering in her ear, said, Madam, the conquering Knight of the Journey, who desires you very instantly, to conceal him onely to your self. In that his travel thither was to no other end, but to see if your gracious gifts and beauty were answerable to the renown blazed thereof so far hence in his Comitting, hoping to compass the matter so, (for so me he hath opened the very secrets of his heart) that when you have further knowledge of him, you shall not onely have occasion to love him but account your self likewise beholding to him, in respect of the voluntary pain he hath suffered for your sake. The rest of his speeches I shall acquaint you with at better leisure, in place more convenient for such discourse.

Iffida who was prudent and well advised did forbear to confer longer with her new Solicitor, least her love should be lightly espied by any: then secretly she glanced on Palmendos, whose thoughts were such to compass his intent, and seeing him so penitive, she immediately interpreted this Saturnine taciturnity to her own advantage, thinking it proceeded from the ravishment of her beauty. as her Embassanour had before perswaded her: herewith she judged in him more elegance of form and sweetness of complexion, then in any other Knight whatsoever, which made her so surprised with his attracting regard as to allay the extremity of this heat, she desired nothing more then to speak with him, that she might be resolved of whence and what he was. Palmendos stirred not from his place, nor thought he long of his stay there, because he hoped to gather some fruit thereby: but warily marks the amorous looks of Iffida, and how her eye was the Messenger of her inward desire, all which he covertly imparted to Ozalio, who moved not one foot from his dear friend.

They fearing lest their long stay would cause suspicion, went their way, which made Iffida likewise repair to her Chamber, and calling the minister of her love alive, began in this manner.

As I dare, how truly dost thou discover the perfections of the strange Knight, whose behaviour and discreet modesty joyned with his rare and martial prowess, makes me repute him for the chiefest man that ever came into this Countrey. Adams answered the young Counsellour, if you would be innumerable betwixt us consouled in one body. I beseech you hasten your speaking with him, and let not the happy hour miscarry through your default, which the fatal destinies have so graciously appointed: his lovely speeches shall acquaint you with his indowment, which you may behold so correspondent in every point, as you can wish for nothing but is to be found in him. How should I speak with him said Iffida, without impeach to my honour, which hitherto I have carefully regarded, unlesse it

be by thy means in some secret place, free from the hurt of suspected persons, whereof the world is now mightily moved? I shall tell you how *Padam*, answered the Page: you know my Lord your Father willed you the other day, that you should return to him with all possible speed, which will serve as a fit occasion, to take your honest farewell of this company: It then you will depart hence to morrow towards evening you may lodge by the way at my Mothers house, whither I will go to see you with the two Knights, and cause her to say that they be her Nephews, who now are secretly come to visit her, so may you confer together at your pleasure. The intention is good answered *Issida* yet must you be very circumspect herein, that the drift of our intent be not discovered.

The complot thus concluded, the Page went in the morning to *Palmendos*, who making him not a little glad with this news, caused both the Sisters to mount on horse back and set forth with him to his mothers house, seated in a pleasant place between *Tubani* and the Castle of *Albayzo*. When the Gentlewoman saw the two Knights, she was much abashed, but her Son soon resolved her in every point: and that she might boldly call them her Nephews, her self being a stranger born far from that Country. The mother being thoroughly instructed by her Son, desired that intent might take good success, whereupon the Page returned to his Parents, who had in this while so well ordered her departure, as she new married, nor any other could gather suspicion, then forward she sets, for her Journey had hast, so sorely had love seized on her heart, having no other company with her, then her four waiting Damoels, and two Squires of her Fathers.

Now is she come unto the long desired place, where being very graciously entertained, both by *Palmendos* and *Ozalio*, as also the Pages Mother. *Issida* being not to learn her lesson, desires to know what Knights they were, that so friendly saluted her. They are (quoth the Pages Mother) my two Nephews, who having not seen me of long time,
are

are come to know if they may stand in any stead: as also to offer their services to my Lord your father, if in any thing it shall please him to employ them. Right heartily welcome are they answered with, and of my I must needs thank them for the good will they bear my Lord and Father, for which cause, as also their near alliance to you, I love them as they were my proper brethren.

Palmendos coming to her with great reverence, gave her humble thanks for her honourable kindness, and while they spent their time about other familiar conference, Supper was set on the Table in a pleasant Room, where Misa could digest no more, her eyes were so dazzled in beholding her Champion; afterwards they walked up and down the Garden; and the seeing the Page-mother was dejected with Ozalio, as one loth to lose so good an opportunity, she regimeth with Palmendos in this manner.

I cannot but marvel at myself, (Sir Knight) that being nothing touched with the love of fawning Gentlemen which heretofore have at times offered me their service, my heart should by you (whom I never saw before these few days past) so vehemently be provoked to love; so that I can not hear or think on any thing, but it is broken or rejected by the remembrance of you: I prize you for your greatness, not for your greatness as a parallel of my challenge, or forgetful of the manner of behaving a Knight; for the most behaviour I see rather in your incomparable personage, both in the manner of your former liberty, and in the manner of your captivity, not now that but you will be able to see your conquest as not the same, by any dishonourable attempt, conducting me noble Birth and Parentage. And to satisfy my earnest longing desire, only permit me to have further knowledge of your estate, acquaint me with the secret character of your heart, and what you will command me to guard of the pains you have taken for my sake: wherein (my honour defended) I will be able that nothing to you, I wish none else but you can have of me, and I will be able to guard of the pains you have taken for my sake.

Madame (answered Palmendos) I cannot expresse my high good fortune, finding such grace and controule at your hand being on my part no way as yet deserved, but time may reide the due to every gentle mind, and make me able to requite such extraordinary favour. And think not sweet Goddess of my heart, that in pittying the unsupportable burden of my oppressions, you shall any way think the detection of lightnesse, but rather of honorable and well-governed care, when you shall behold the place whereto I hope safely to bring you: for Madame, setting aside my simple outward appearance, I am a King borne, and Governour of sundry famous Provinces, and this attempt proceeds onely of religious zeal, to make you Lady of me and mine; as your wonderful fame at first took the sovereignty of my heart.

How can I worthy Lord (quoth Iffida) but stand amazed, that you being a King, and a man of so rare fortune in managing Arms, should come hither for so simple a Damisell as my self, not worthy to cast mine eyes to such preferment? yet not to dissimble with you as concerning my resolution, without my Fathers consent, I neither may or will go hence with you, because it were both disobedience and injury to nature.

Notwithstanding, one thing I will do for you, which never heretofore I offered to any Knight, I will bring you to my Father, and tell him you are one of this Gentilemans Nephews, she being my Sister, in the time of mine infancy: to him must you offer your service, and no longer shall he behold you knightly rebeld; but he will gladly accept you as his Son: so with my Parents consent you may convey me hence, and in mean while I shall keep secret your escape. albeit it were good that you tell him the truth. Palmendos who desired nothing but to get into the Castle, and to compass the same by any way he could, thus replied.

Madame, such is the extremity of my vehement passions, as no one can reare them, but she from whom they took

took their Original; nor do my vital spirits receive any force to execute their office, but from your gracious and gentle disposition: therefore I will go with you when you please to your Father, and say what you can best imagine, for the peaceable assurance and fruition of the good pretended.

These words he uttered with very cheerful countenance, by reason of the hope wherewith his heart was encouraged, seeing the practice of his negotiation stand now on the terms himself desired: the Lady on the other side was so ravished with his love that she could not be satisfied with beholding him, or consent to forsake his company. till time of constraint came that they must to their Lodgings where Iffida could not sleep through the whole night, her slumbers were so broken by the abundance and plurality of amorous discourse, which chased all other imaginations from her spirit.

In these extremes poor Iffida was tormented, a disease clean contrary to that which troubled Palmendos, who onely sought by dissimulation to recover the good King of Thessaly, whereof he conferred in bed with Ozalio, what stratagems and subtilties he must compass in the action; intreating him most affectionately, they having once gotten entrance into the Castle to show himself hardy and valiant, putting every one to the sword when the Watchword should be given. When the morning was come, Iffida decked her self in her brave accoutrements, and coming into the Garden, found there the two Knights armed except their Helms, she praying them to go with her to the Castle of Albayzo, that she might have the honour of presenting them to the Captain her Father.

This matter being soon concluded, they all mounted on Horseback, and about noon arrived at the Fortress, the situation and structure whereof caused Palmendos to wonder, in that it was placed on a high and mighty rock, and steepled with such Punition for War, as it was thought impregnable. Being come to the Gate, Iffida lighted from her

Hackney and entered taking the Knights by the hand, the Archers permitting them quietly pass without any fear or further inquiry what they were. Finding them so well acquainted with last Ilija, whom the Captain loved so well as none might gain-say what he commanded.

And afterward the Bridges were drawn, and the Gates strongly barred according as they were wont to be, so the Princes entering the Hall, Palmendos diligently looked about him, thinking each hour a year till the skirmish were fought in this strong Hold, thanking the heavens that had so well guided them thither.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How Palmendos and Ozilio flew the Captain of Albayzo Castle, and all the Guard that then kept it, taking the King of Thessaly forth of the Tower, where he had remained captive twenty years; and what did happen unto them in the mean while.



When the Captain of Albayzo Castle (who was an honourable old man, and put in chief trust with the great Turks Treasurers) saw his Daughter accompanied with two such brave Knights, he was therewith exceedingly amazed: as if this occurrence had already presaged the conflict and cruel slaughter, which was immediately to follow in the Castle. Wherefore he said, my Daughter, how chanceth it that you are come forth from your mother? My Lord (quoth she) the desire I had yesterday to see you, hastened my return in company of your two squires, my four waiting Damoaisels, and these two Knights who are holy Prophets to my Father, where

where I found them as I passed by that way; and herof he assured god Father, that this Knight (pointing to Palmendos) is one of the most brave and courteous Gentlemen that ever you knew. Wherof his Story in the Tourney at my Brothers Marriage, hath given me evident Example, as also the honest speeches he hath used to me this morning, declaring his earnest desire to offer you his services: under hope wherof I have been his Guest hitherto. Meaning the acquisition of such a man there, and of great consequence, and will chiefly help the strength of your charge.

He is the better welcome (answered the Captaine) and in recompence of his good will, he shall command any conteste at my hand. For at these words, he had other matters in his mind; and because his Daughter pleased him so much, so much the more willingly could he have spared his company in the Castle; for that his presence made him misdoubt and fear somewhat: yet to dissemble the matter, and take away all occasion of contrary mistrust, with a counterfeite merry countenance, he said.

Go Daughter and salute thy Mother, mean while these Knights shall be armed: Whyle while he spake to be assured of their Armour and Weapons; intending they should not have them again till they were forth of the Castle. But Palmendos hearing these words, began to misdoubt the interpretation, and therefore thought best not to use any more speeches; but going with Iffida's Page into a fair Chamber, instead of arming themselves, they clasped on their Helms, and taking their Shields with resolved courage, came forth having their good swords ready drawn. Palmendos now intending to try the vertue of his enchanted Sword, or else to put both their lives in danger.

The Page seeing this sudden alteration, driven into as great a quagmire as if he had been new metamorphosed, began to cry out very piteously, fearing the Act abominable, and scelerous dissolap; wherewith he ran down to advertise the Guard thereof, but they themselves were not far behind

him, because *Palmendos* knew this Enterprize was not to be deferred, therefore he and *Ozario* came into the Castle Court; where they found the Captain threatening the Guard, that they had so lightly suffered the Knights to enter: but they excused themselves on *Issida* who brought them with her: whereupon the Captain turning about, and seeing them come in such fury, he cryed to the Guard, saying; Wake Arms my loyal and faithful Knights, and let us murder these false Villains, who have beguiled us so treacherously.

Palmendos having instructed *Ozario*, to keep sure the Gate that none might issue forth, or more rescue come in, remembering his sweet Lady *Francelina*, determined to die or deliver her Father from imprisonment.

Now makes he proof of his Sword charmed by the Fairies, which as he lifted about head, caused every one that came against them sleepily to stagger. and when they offered to strike with their Weapons, they fell down as though they had been in a sound sleep, being all in that case deprived of their lives, both the Captain, the Guard, and the rest that could be found, except the Turk who guided them by Sea, and the Page that came with these news to *Issida*, saying. Alas *Adam*. we are all betrayed by the false Knights that entered the Castle with us: right worthy am I of a thousand deaths, in that your Father and all the Guard have lost their lives by my means.

When *Issida* and her mother heard these uncount news, they came down as women distracted of their wits, and seeing this lamentable spectacle. He fell down on her Fathers dead body uttering these words, My good Lord and Father, pardon me that was the cause of this thy death, and seeing innocent I have been so circumvented by a false Traytor, my life shall presently follow thee at his heels, to accomplish thy obsequies with more solemn pomp and ceremonies. Whereupon she offered to run her head against a marble pillar, but *Palmendos* came and stayed her when she being greatly offended thereat, raging against him, thus spake.

Then

Thou cruel, false, and disloyal Knight, seeing thou hast slain my Father, and his chiefest friends, why dost thou not also send me to bear them company? Tell me thou bloody Barbarian, what did move thee to repay my faithful love with such extreme rigour? How durst thou deceive me so treacherously, considering what labour I shewed thee on so small acquaintance? With glib and dissembling speeches, thou secretly saldest thou wast a King: but if thou be one, it is of Robbers and Thieves, and art come hither to steal the great Emperours treasure. Miserable and unhappy that I was in giving credit to such false persuasions, the end whereof sorteth to such monstrous effects.

If such as heretofore have known me, imagined me wise and discreetly inclined, henceforth they may well term me a disloyal Daughter, being the onely cause of my Fathers death: But though unwittingly I have been deceived, yet will I complain of Fortunes instability, that by the report of I know not what, frivolous and vain ostentation should so easily change my heart. But what will the mighty Emperour of Turkey say, when he shall understand the truth of this slaughter, wrought onely for the stealing hence of his treasure? Follish and miserable girl that I am, why did not I remember the sundry injuries his Majesties brother sustained by the Emperour Palmerin of Constantinople, when he travelled the world as a Knight errant: had I but remembered those stratagems, they would have so warned me from affecting this Stranger? yet if the fatal decree made me so faine subject to him, why could he not favour me with my Fathers life?

Palmendos little regarding her injurious speeches desired her to be better pacified, promised if she would depart with him, to set the Crown of Tharsus upon her head, which he would give to his Conqueror Ozalio, and join her in marriage with him if she pleased. Whereupon he assured her, that he would not take any thing out of the Castle, but be King of Thessaly, whose deliberance could not be compassed by any intreaty, and therefore he ransomed him with the lives of so many.

Al Mahomet (cried Issida at these words) why sufferest thou Christians to make such incursions on thy people and Countreys? Why dost thou create and appoint Women so near to men, seeing that for them they passe through innumerable toiments? The Brother to our great Emperour the Turk, was cruelly murdered by the means of a woman, and now by me is his Captaine my Father brought to the like end, his prisoner likewise the King of Thessaly thereby delibered: How can I but loath and despise my life, being yemmed in on every side with such monstrous affliction?

Issidolesse is it now to remember mortal incumbrances, or to think on the Wars which Hecione and Helenna caused between the Greeks and the Trojans: Lavinia between Aeneas and Turnus, or Deinna between Hercules and Achelous, and afterward among the Centaurs: For the Wars which will spring by these new occasions, ere long time he spent, I fear will be so horrible and infamous, that they will deface the memory of them done so long ago. Afterward the Mother and her Daughter ran furiously on Palmendos, labouring to doe him what injury they could: but he (unwilling to hurt them) suffered their violence, All Ozalio's Squire seeing their impatience, and fearing with their knives they would in the end murder him, took up one of the Guards hatchets, and therewith deprived the Mother of her life.

Issida extremely raging at this grievous spectacle, rent her hair from her head, and with her nails most cruelly martyred her fair face; then being suddenly surprized with a raging apoplexie, she presently died without uttering any more speeches. The Page grieved to behold this woful accident, determined not to live any longer after her: But first upon the wall he wrote certain dolorous Verses, which afterward were converted to a Funerallitty, in this manner.

Dead

Dead is the bud of Beauties chief delight,
 The fairest flower on whom the Sun did shine,
 The choice belov'd of many a famous Knight,
 The pride of Honour, precious and divine:
 The lovely Maid of whom the Nymphs did sing,
 That nature never fram'd so rare a thing.

Had *Paris* seen this wondrous piece of Art,
 Proud *Venus* had not carried Beauties prize;
Pallas and *Juno* would have stood apart,
 To see their gifts one Virgin royalize:
 In every point surpassing curious,
 Had Fate and Fortune been as gracious.

Ungentle Star that domineer'd the day,
 When first my Lady Mistress breath'd this air,
 What angry object stood then in the way,
 To cross the course that was begun so fair?
 You lowring heavens, why did ye oppress
 The Saint whom you so many ways did bless?

But wretch, why stand'st thou charging these with guilt,
 And art thy self the Author of this ill?
 Thou hapless Boy thy Ladies blood hast spilt,
 Thy Master and his servants thou didst kill.
 When first thou travell'dst for this trothless man,
 Even in that hour these miseries began,

But Sovereign Love, immortal and divine,
 Whose gracious name did shadow this abuse;
 Canst thou permit before thy holy eyn,
 This heinous deed exempt from all excuse?
 O mighty Love, what will thy Subject say,
 If foul offences go unreveng'd away?

Stand I expostulating this or that,
 When on my back this weighty burthen lies :
 Waste no more time with vain and idle chat,
 But for this fault be thou a sacrifice,
 Fair *Isida* thy Page doth follow thee,
 The onely Engine of this Tragedy.

These Merles fired upon the Wall by the Squire, he ran hastily and caught up a Sword from one of the slain Knights, and setting the point thereof against his heart, said. If you (*Padame*) by my means have rescued this fortune, reason requires that for your sake I should endure as much : and with these words he fell upon the Sword.

This was the second Act of the tragical Comedy begun at *Prissa*, and thus after continued in the Theater of *Albayzo*, where all they of the Castle miserably ended their lives, except three or four Damoisels and their waiting Women : who likewise were so amazed at this lamentable spectacle, as they thought themselves half deprived of life. *Palmendos* being stricken in a dump by these accidents, stood a good while not able to speak a word, which his cousin *Ozario* perceiving, and marvelling at his alteration, he came and comforted himself in this sort, My Lord, you must now leave all dumpish musing, and rejoyce for your good Success in this attempt ; never trouble your thoughts with other imaginattons, but let us determine our departure hence, before the matter be further manifested, otherwise we may fall in danger a hundred times more to be feared, then were we inclosed in the inextricable Labyrinth.

Your reason is good, cousin (answered *Palmendos*) wherefore presently we will go seek for the prison, wherein my Lord the King hath been kept so long : after they had searched a good while in vain, at length they found him in a strong Tower, bound with huge bars of iron, he being so lean, withered, pale and wan, as they marvelled to see him so withered away.

Palmendos beholding him in this grievous plight, remembering this was the father to his best beloved *Francelina*, compassion caused the tears to trickle down his cheeks; but the King not perceiving this humanity, rather amazed to see their Swords so bloody, thought they were come to end his miserable and distressed life, wherefore he willingly prepared himself thereto, saying, Sovereign redeemer of humane nature, to thee I commend my soul, which must now leave this loathsome prison: he then then my intercessor to thy merciful Father, having so patiently for my sin suffered punishment in this wretched place: And seeing he hath reputed my body unworthy of longer being in this life, be thou my gracious Mediator for my soul, that in his judgement it be not banished from eternal felicity promised to the god.

This prayer having kept the passage of *Palmendos* speech, *Ozalio* used these words to the King. My Lord, be not dismayed, we come not hither to offer you any enrage, but to deliver you from this thraldom, and carry you with us to *Constantinople*, where you shall find your Queen and fair Daughter *Francelina*, by whose means your troubles have now taken end, and there they stay onely for your coming.

Afterward he declared the whole success of the action, and breaking the bars of the little trickat, took him forth of that dark prison, wherein he had remained twenty years, such marvellous hatred did the great Turk bear him. Yet could he not certainly be resolved of this liberty, till he saw the Captain and the rest that were slain, when embracing the Knights, he thanked God and them for his happy deliverance.

Palmendos thought it necessary to make no longer stay there, wherefore commanding one of their Squires to fetch a good Horse out of the Captains stable, they caused the King to mount thereon: then remembering the former speeches of *Issida*, he would not suffer any thing else to be carried out of the Castle.

CHAP. XXIX.

How the King of Theſſaly departing with Palmendos from the Caſtle of Albayzo, they met the great Turke Daugh- ter by the way, whom the Prince carried thence by the vertue of his Sword. And how Ripole having taken order for the bu- riall of them that were ſlain, he went to complain thereof to the great Turke.



Almendos remembering his return to Conſtantinople, and deviſing how he might ſafely get away from the Caſtle of Albayzo, he cauſed all the Gentlewomen that were left alive to be locked in one Chamber: and ſo ſoon as it was dark, leading the great Gates wide open, and the Bridges down, they all rode away, Oricano being their Guide as he was before. About midnight they came to the Pages Mothers houſe, where among the trees of the Garden, they eſpied divers lighted torches, and a ſumptuous bed in the miſt of the Ar- bour, at which ſight not marvelling a little, they ſtayed there a while: but Palmendos deſirous to be further ſatis- fied herein, gave his horſe to Oricano, and drawing his ven- erous Sword, charmed all that were in the Garden ſleep, by which means he came to the rich bed ſides, wherein he ſaw a very beautiful Lady. Her name was Merencida, eldeſt Daughter to the great Turke, and wiſe to the King Ourites of Calaguin. Whom Palmendos found near the gulf of Tanais and Meotides: ſhe now journeying to re- create her ſelf with her Mother at a fair Caſtle not far from this place, whither ſhe went three days before in great anger from the Court, becauſe the great Turke loved another of his Concubines better then her. Merencida mourning for the

the taking of the King her husband, craved leave of the great Turk her father, that she might go to visit her mother for seven or eight days, where with her she might bear a share of her grief and heaviness: So parting from the Court honourably accompanied and alighting at this pleasant Boister to refresh her self because the night suddenly prevented her, she commanded the Grooms to prepare her bed for that night in the Harbour, her Ladies, Gentlewomen and Guard being all there about her. Palmendos having with his Sword charmed all her Attendants asleep approached near the beds side, when the Princess thinking on her husbands imprisonment, gave many grievous sighs from the depth of her heart, cursing the Knight that took him, as also Constantinople for unjustly detaining him; and to these mournful regrets added these speeches.

O my noble Lord, Oh that I had some sure and loyal person, that might conduct me to the place where thou art, to the end my longing mind might be satisfied with the sight of thee, and these two sources of tears stayed from further streaming over; for living here my griefs grow intolerable, and I abide the most desolate Lady in all Asia. Other lamentable speeches she uttered till nature no longer able to withstand the charges of sorrowfulness, caused her to fall fast asleep; and Palmendos having heard what was passed, imagined that she was the great Turks Daughter, wife to the King Scurites, whom he sent to Constantinople. Wherefore seeing all her Guard soundly sleeping, he folded down the bed cloaths; and because the precious Calamite in his Sword by nature breatheth the body of man or woman to it, as the Adamant doth the Iron, the Lady presently arose into his arms; and being so kept asleep by his enchanted Sword, lay as quiet in his arms, as fair Daphne did with Phœbus, when Jupiter converted her into a Bay-tree. Wrapping her costly Mantle about her, he departed safely from the Guard, and coming where Oricano stayed with his Horse, made such shift as he mounted into the Saddle, and

so gallopped to the rest of his company, who marked not a little that he had got so good a booty.

Great heart they make, till they got on shipboard when Palmendos laying her upon his bed, and using her reverently, because she was of such honour, he put up his victorious Sword in the sheath, when very soon after Marcacida awoke; and seeing her self in the company of Strangers, crying out with fear, she said, Alas where am I? what? have I no one about me that I know? how came I so strangely into this place? why fortune, hast thou not yet afflicted me enough? are my Sorrowes grown into such a hatred toward me, as in my sleep to seek my destruction? And what are you that have been so bold as to take me out of my bed? this audacious behaviour will return you no other querdon, then the very sharpest death that can be devised. Madame, answered Palmendos, from that we will keep our selves as well as we may: as for my self, I am a Knight of a Country far hence, and bearing by chance what moan you made for the captivity of the King your husband, as also how distressous you seemed to see him in Constantinople, I was greatly moved to pity your affliction, and as one willing to please you herein, as also what other thing you shall command me, I took you forth of your bed, promising you by my religious vows to Chastity, not only to shew you the King Ourices, but also to guard your chastity incontaminat, as free from the least spot of dishonour as when you happened into my custody.

False and dishonest Knight (quoth she) how can I but receive shame and infamy by this treachery, having in such sort been taken from among my Guard? If I desired to see the King my husband, it was only to content me mind, which is thereto moved with vehement affection: yet might my meaning be far enough from my words, because I could not do it without my Fathers licence and more willing would I end my life in this place, then go with thee of whom I can imagine no good thought, but as thou hast feloniously stoln me from my bed, so wilt thou hereafter trayterously murder

murder me. I am neither thief or traitor (answered Palmendos) but a Knight ready at your commandment, if so you take my service in good worth: and seeing you are now in my power determine to go with me willingly or perforce, and think not I intend your death, for it is far from my thought I promise you.

When began Marcencida to tear her hair, which seemed as the golden wyre, and beat her fair hands so white as the Alabaſter, with out-cries as a Woman deprived of her senses: when the Prince pitying these feminine importunities, drew his sword, and to ease these extremities charied her a blow again. During this time, Ozalio had told the King of Thessaly the whole news of his daughter Francelina, whereto he gave good attention, because since the time of his imprisonment, he had not heard any thing as concerning the affairs of his Realm, or that the Queen his wife had any such daughter. wherfore the tears trickling down his face, he came and embraced Palmendos saying. In sooth my son, all the grievous torments I have heretofore endured, seem nothing in respect of the comfort I now feel, that my unknown child should enjoy a man so virtuous and for this Ladies taking I am likewise glad, because by this mean I shall be sufficiently revenged on the Turk. Thus doth God (answered Palmendos) shew him self a just judge, and the true director of all humane actions, limiting every occasion according as best him pleaseth, but we were best to make what speed we can hence, else we may repent our coming among these infernal tyrants. Marcencida awaking again, and not persuaded with all the courteous entertainments he could bestow, she still continued her former exclamations, not unlike Ariadne at the coming of Bacchus, when she was found forsaken by Theseus at the sea-side: in like sort did she renew her maledictions, invocating on Neptune and Thetis, as also the Tritons, their Heralds, Puffers, Stomphs, and Sirens, that they might suffer shipwreck in the sea, and the fishes feed on her unhappy carcass. But Ozalio pity-

sing her volozons compliments, and finding his heart somewhat espized with her love intreated Palmendos to grant him one request, which above all things else he required at his hands, when the Prince yielding unto any thing his cousin would demaund, Ozalio proceeded in this manner.

My fate is (worthy Lord and cousin) to enjoy this Lady as my Wife, to whom I know the destinies have fatally related me, considering the sudden change, and inexpressible controule my heart endureth: whereas the continual accompanying of beautiful Ladies heretofore, could never move my frozen affections, and now I feel them not warm but boiling. Easily may you (quoth Palmendos) obtain this demand of me, if nothing else stand in the way to hinder it, and much do I desire your advancement, as any way I can be covetous of mine own, hoping while I live to see no distance between us, but that our Estates shall continue equally together, and in witness of my word, I deliver you the charge of this Princess, hereafter to dispose of her according to your desires. Ozalio now uses all decent courtesies to Marencida, thereby to gain favour in her conceit: yet all was in vain, for she would not afford him any good counterance, but remain in her wonted obstinacy.

When the poor Fisherman understood by his son Oricano, how his Guests had delivered the King of Thessaly out of Albayzo Castle, he thought it no longer tarrying for him in Larky, wherefore he came and intreated the Prince Palmendos, that he might sail with him into Christendome, which suit was very soon obtained; so he, his wife and family came all aboard the Ship the Prince promising to reward their gentleness liberally.

Now let us come to the Guard, and them that attended on Marencida, who waking, and not finding their Lady in her bed, began to chafe and rage in most extreme manner; some rending their hair and beards violently, others running mad among the Trees, thinking she had been metamorpho-

morphosed in the Garden; nor could they imagine how to escape the danger, when the great Turk should hear of the mishap. These comfortless creatures thus amazed, not any one of them daring to go tell the Emperour hereof, they determined to fly the Country, and return no more to the Court, leaving Marcenida's Ladies and Gentlewomen mourning in that unhappy place, where (about noon) Ripole brother to Issila arrived, returning from the wedding with his wife and others brave Knights: but when he understood the cause of their sorrow, he was stricken into such a quandary, as he would pass no further before he enquired more of the event. In the mean while he sent a Squire to Albayzo Castle, to advertise his father of his coming; and the Squire pauncing up to the Fortress, marvelled to see the Gates wide open, much more when he saw the slaughter of the Knights, and the Captain himself lie slain among them: now was he surprized with such fear, as he had not the heart to tarry there any longer, but trusting to the speedy succour of his horse legs, galloped with all speed to his Father: where standing a while, as a man beside himself, at length he thus spake.

Pardon me (my Lord) in declaring a bloody and tragical report, your worthy father, and all the guard of the Castle he cruelly murdered in the base Court: and because I found the great gates open, I doubt the treasure and riches in the Castle have occasioned this massacre by some robbers and thieves. Ripole hearing these unlooked for news was terrified in such sort as he could not tell what to say, but mounting on a lusty courser, he rode to the Castle, the Gentlemen bringing his wife last and softly after. But when he beheld this woeful spectacle, and what a butchery Palmendos's Word had made, his servants feared he would have followed in this hard misfortune. Nor can I here set down the full moans which Ripole made over his father, mother and sister: no doubt they were as strange and irksome as this accident: but when they had searched through the Castle, and found nothing wanting but the

King

King of Thessaly, they judge the Authors of this tyranny to be Christians, and that they likewise had carried away the Queen Marcicida.

After he had taken order for interring the dead, he rode immediately toward the great Turk having heard of Iffidacs Parle, all that had hapned betwixt her and the two Knights; and being come before the Emperour he fell at his feet, delivering the signs of an afflicted spirit, which onely sought for grace and mercy. At length he declared the substance of this woful occurrence, as well that of Marcicida his Majesties Daughter, as the other of his Fathers death and deliverance of the King of Thessaly, affirming his Sister Iffidacs to be the onely cause thereof, and by what trains he had been beguiled, himself being altogether innocent of the treason: notwithstanding, he freely offered himself at his gracious disposition, to abide whatsoever he would assign him. These words so wounded the Turk to the heart, as he remained silent a great while, anger having so locked up the passage of his speech: yet furiously at length starting from his Chair, he railed on the Gods, stars devils and all the infernal powers. Oh Mahomet (quoth he) doubtless thou art angry with me, or else dost take but little care of thy servants that evermore have extolled thee above all other Gods and Prophets: but much I wonder thou wouldest thus forget me, unless thou wilt have me think thee extremely offended, or that the hope is vain and frustrate which is reposed in thee: For Stars, not inclined to labour me, but rather affecting my total ruine, wherein have I so basely offended that you should take so sharp and rigorous vengeance on me: what may this presage to me hereafter, but some great misfortune and sudden mutation in Asia: Yet will I so carefully foresee these affairs, as the seditious Performers of this Willany shall not carry it away so lightly.

Like sorrows made this infidel for his mishap, when many of his Knights, without attending other commandment,

ment, got ready Fleets, Gallies, and other Vessels of War; to pursue the carriers of this tragical accident; but their labour was spent in vain, albeit not long after they heard the truth of all; which procured such hatred between the Turks and the Grecians, as they ceased not, till with hostility they had invaded Greece, but it was not during the reign of the Emperour Palmerin, or any of his race or next posterity; for while they lived, the Turks durst not stir against them: yet long time after, when Octomian a fierce and proud Prince governed, infinite evils happened in Europe, where he took and sacked many good cities, towns and castles. Now would the great Turk not suffer Ripole to be further tormented, because he was found altogether innocent in the action: but sent him back to the Castle of Albayzo, making him Captain thereof as his father was before. And long time continued he sad and melancholy, thinking he had received wonderful dishonour by the loss of his daughter Marencida; nor should he ever recover the same, till Greece were beaten flat to the ground, and the Emperour Palmerin with all his kindred utterly destroyed. Where in these ragings we will leave him, and return to our purpose.

C H A P. XXX.

How Palmendos with his company arrived at Constantinople where the Emperour came and received them at the Port: what speeches he had with the Queen Marencida, after they were come to the Palace; how joyfully likewise the Queen of Theffaly and Francelina her daughter, welcomed home the King her Father.

THE Mariners cheerfully hoping their falls, left the coast of Turkie, and launched into the main sea, having the wind and weather so favourable, as without any impeachment they attained the Bosphore of Thracia, where Palmendos sent his cousin Ozalio before to the Emperour, that the King of Theffaly might be entertained with honour, becoming so great a Prince. Ozalio making speed in a swift little Pinnace, being landed, went directly to the Palace, and finding the Emperour in the great Hall, conferring with his Lords about the enchanted Bird, which that morning had belivered many pleasant notes, wherefore he expected some comfortable news, when Ozalio falling on his knee, began in this manner.

My dear Lord, I am the servant and friend to the noble Palmendos, whose renown hath heretofore been blazed in this Court, and he humbly intreateth your Highness by me that you would entertain the King of Theffaly, whom he hath brought from Turkie, with such grace and honour as becometh his dignity: By this time I think they are entered the haven, in that they were not far off when I left them. I being sent before to acquaint your Majesty herewith. The Emperour exceeding joyful at these news, rose and embraced Ozalio very graciously, and causing all his Knights

Knights and Barons to prepare themselves, late, that he would go to the Port in person to welcome them.

Right soon were these tidings brast through the Court, wherewith the Emperesse and her Ladies were highly pleased, especially the mourning Queen of Thessaly for her husbands return, and fair Francelina for her lovely friend, whose absence made her imagine every hour a year: wherefore in haste they got th: in before to the Port, attended on by their Ladies and Gentlewomen, where Palmendorf being newly come on shore with the King, thus spake unto him. Behold my good Lord, your Queen and Daughter, who are joyfully come to salute your arrival. But when he looked on Francelina, the whole quire of Heaven was present in his thoughts. The Queen very earnestly beheld the King her husband, when seeing his face and heard so strangely over-grown, beside, his skin and complexion so wonderfully altered, as doubtful in mind, she came to him with these words. Are you (my Lord) the King of Thessaly, for whom my heart hath suffered exceeding grief? I pray you resolve me presently without holding me longer in suspense, in that your deformed estate hath greatly perpleyed my remembrance.

Spidame (answered the King) it is no marvel though you know me not considering the long time since you saw me last, which the integrity of our love hath made us imagine of greater compass, although the accustomed revolution of years do not diminish or increase one moment in their natural course: notwithstanding I am the same King your husband who have felt more passions for your absence, then anguish or torment in my miserable captivity. But seeing the immortal bounty hath suffered me once again to see you, before my soul forsake this passible body, which was my continual desire during my tribulation: now care I not though Death presently doe his duty; for seeing the circle of your arms have embraced me, I am the readier for my mother Earth to receive me.

Now are joyful tears plentifully poured forth on all
sides,

ness, and embracings so vehement, as though they should never untold again, the liberty of speech being hindered all this while; so Palmendos and Francelina were transported into a second heaven, to see the outward ceremony served to confirm the inward contentation, at length the Queen taking Francelina by the hand thus spak to the King. See here (my Lord) your daughter of whom I was but newly conceived when you went from Thessaly, happy and fortunate may she justly be termed, in that her destiny hath delivered you from prison, restored me my former joy and given her the most perfect Knight that ever bore Arms.

When the King beheld his Daughter so fair and graceful, he took her in his arms, expressing with silent satours his hearts joy: and in this while the Emperor came with his train, alighting from his horse to welcome the King of Thessaly, whom when he beheld so spent and dis-figured, the tears fell from his eyes, and embracing him in his arms, said.

O noble brother, heaven hate the honour for delivering you from our common enemy; where albeit heretofore I was glad of your rescue, yet was I grieved at your imprisonment, being then my self (as you know) in the Turks power, although he gave me more liberty then you, in hope I would have aided him with my uttermost ability: I beseech then to get from his service, constrained me to deal somewhat hardly against you, an error too notable, and I confess worthy reprehension: but God pardoning the offences of the repentant hath in pity regarded us both, and by his inexhaustible goodness, directed all things to a happy end.

My Lord (replied the King) the whole discourse thereof hath I heard by Palmendos, which gives me reason not to think any fault in you, when you could not otherwise help the same: But let us leave occasions past, seeing heaven hath so miraculously delivered me, that I would come my self to present the entire affection wherewith I am bound to your Highness service. Nor could any thing in the

the world (said the Emperour) more delight me, then your coming with the knight I have so long desired to see; with whom I cannot but be offended (these words he merrily uttered) in that he hath tarried so long time from me. Then Palmendos falling on his knee, modestly answered in this manner. O dear Lord, if heretofore I have provoked your displeasure, I confesse such punishment is due to me as you shall ordain, and willingly will I endure it, to fashion me the better to your service wherein I would employ my self according to your appointment, although it were to fight against the gates of Death; whereof I gladly could afford some proof, to please your Highness to enjoin me such a task, as may expresse my zeal and forwardness. And that you may know the name of your voluntary servant, I am that Palmendos, who was since the hour of my birth destined to follow your virtues, humbly intreating to discharge your remembrance of any discontentment I have heretofore occasioned, in that mine own mind still perswaded me, I wanted worthiness to come before your Excellency.

The Emperour beholding him of such gallant stature, did not a little marvel at his rare perfections, wherefore taking him graciously in his arms, desired he would command any thing wherein he might stand him in stead, for he was not able to requite his high deservings. Afterward came Prima-leon, and courteously entertained him: the like did Abecunco, signifying how much he was bound to him for his happy deliverance: then came Arnedes with the other Lords and Knights, all of them embracing the happy champion that went away with the honour of the Courney.

By this time had Ozalio brought Marencida on horse the wondering to behold such state and royalty, wherefore she desired to know the place of her landing. Whom answered Ozalio this City is called Constantinople, and among this flourishing troop of Princes, who have vouchsafed their coming hither to this Port, there may you behold the famous Emperour Palmerin, who is here in person

to receive the King of Thessaly, and the worthy Knight that delivered him from prison: your self likewise will esteem him a virtuous Prince, by the good entertainment you shal enjoy, when once he understanndeth your state and calling; so that I hope you will not repent this voyage, were it but to have knowledge of him alone.

How miserable and unfortunate am I (quoth she) to fall into the mercy of my fathers capital enemy: how can my griefs but grow into an exceeding surplage? If I see the King Ocurites my husband, the mischief will be with marvellous heart-break on either side, being both of us captives to the very worst enemy we have. The Emperor and his Lords kindly saluted her, but she would not once bow her self, or make any answer, whereat the standers by very much wondred, terming her a woman of rough and unseemly behaviour, saying, nature might much better have made her a man. Mounting all on horseback in most comely order they rode to the Palace, where the Emperesse and her Ladies met them in the Court. To tell the courtesies, gratulations and welcoms there-used, would ask a world of time, yet but little to the purpose: let it suffice then, they are so well entertained as you can any way imagine.

Palmendos taking Marcenida by the hand, brought her to the Princess Philocrista with these speeches. I desire you spavame to accept this Lady into your company, and give her such good counsel as you can best devise; for she is descended of Royal blood I assure you. Sir Palmendos (replied the Princess) I must obey what you command me, for the love I bear to you and your sweet friends: and I imagine my self fortunate, having such a precious gage from a Knight so perfect; nor shall she be worse treated than mine own self.

Marcenida hearing these gracious speeches, and what courtesies Palmendos used to the Princess, perceived that she was the Emperours daughter, wherefore she gave her many thanks, shewing better countenance then before she did

old to any : which Philocrista took very kindly, and mounting up the steps with her into the Hall, she came to Francelina with these words. This Lady, (Quadam) doth not supply your place, seeing Lord Palmendos is returned, for now your company with me must discontinue, because reason and your fatal gods both so command me, notwithstanding, I hope our amity shall continue.

Faile Princefle (answered Francelina) we are both so far gone, and to good part have you in my Lord, as you shall find your self no less contented then abashed when you know all : therefore fear not that I will forget your friendly familiarity, rather will I continue your loving sister, as our further assurance of our mutual agreement. sundry other speeches passed between the two young Ladies, in mean while Marcencida looking about her, and remembering the great pomp, state and riches of her Father, she made but slender account of the Emperours Court, which was not at this time so well storied with knights as it was wont to be. whereupon she giving a great sigh, thus uttered her mind.

You know, Emperour of Constantinople, that the sumptuous royalty of my Fathers Court, doth exceed the greatest Princes in the whole world, as also how many mighty words serve him with homage and fealty, because hereof you have seen the same ; where if you were so adventurous and hardy, as to kill without fear of them (as the whole world knoweth) the mighty Emperour mine Uncle, think, I pray you, what miserable case the Lady is in, so traitorously brought from her own Country, and now delivered captive into your custody, wherein we think, in respect of the renown spread abroad of you, you should take example by my adversity, and rather grieve then glory therein, as I see you do, considering that inconsistent fortune is still variable, and may not always allow men self-city. This I speak not, whereby to gain the more favour or honour in your Court, because death would be much more welcome to me, then to live in the vexation of mind

I so: wherefore I intreat you again (if intreaty may be seem an aduersary) hereafter to conserve your reputation in such sort, as I may receiue no impeachment to mine honour, and you shall comfort me better therein, then all the commendation of your fame can do.

To these wordes she added many rufal complaints, as the Emperour being therewith moved to compassion replied in this manner, I understand, *Padam*, full well what you haue said, and know beside, that the feminine choler which governeth your spirit, maketh you use such kind of language, as is cleane exempt from all the rules of womanly modesty: nor am I now to learn, that the strength of earthly Kings and Potentates is less then nothing, when God is bent repugnant against them, whereby we are all to resolve that we can do no good act without his assistance.

According to his direction came I unto your Uncles Court, before whom I protest, and crave no merce in the day of vengeance, if I slew him, or euer thought to doe it, being so far carried away from minding any such intent, by the honour I had before receiued at his Highness hands. Yet was I pryde to his lozible detaining of the Lady, and laboured to restore her to her Lord and husband, she being daughter to the renowned King of England, and wife to the now famous Emperour Trineus of Almain: herein (methinks) I committed no offence, he keeping her most unjustly, profaning thereby the sacred Lawes of royal equity.

And because the wife haue evermore patiently endured their fortune, being either good or bad, I verily perswade myself, *Padam*, that you will forbear to complaine and lament in this unseemly manner, knowing your self to be conquered by the most courteous and debonaire Knight that this day lieth in Europe, even he that in *Vellespont* overcame the King *Ocurites* your husband.

These newes so grieved *Marencida* to the heart, when she heard the Emperour say, that the King her husband and her self were both taken captiue by one Knight, as franticke like she could haue eaten her flesh with ginger: but the young

young Princess Philocrissa conducting her to her Chamber, appeared her surp with others friendly speeches and courteous behaviour. But now let us return again to the Prince Palmendos, who in this time unarmed himself, that the Emperour might at my's pleasure behold him.

CHAP. XXXI.

What courteous conference Palmendos had with the Emperour, the Emperesse. and Primaleon: And how being afterwards baptized, he was affianced to his Lady.



After that Palmendos had put off his Armour, he threw a rich Turkish Robe about him, embroidered all over with Oriental Pearls, which he brought from Tharsus with him, according to the modern customs used among the most magnificent Kings of Asia, intending to wear it when he should come into the Emperours presence. Being returned into the great Hall, and each one covetous to know his Originals; Primaleon took him by the hand, and sat down, when the Emperour began in this manner, My noble friend Palmendos, longer must you not conceal your self, your renown being so lavishly brusted through all Countreys: tell me then I pray you, of what Parents you are issued, as also what you think the contentment to acquaint us withall.

Gracious Lord (answered Palmendos) with you whom I so reverence by honour, I may not dissemble in any point, for that I were unworthy your presence if I should deal double with so great a State. Know then mighty Emperour that I am Son to the Queen of Tharsus: the affectionate servant and devoted friend to your Majesty, forsaking my Country by a strange occasion. so soon as I understood

where my father remained. which long before was concealed from me. The cause of my coming into your Highness Court, was the same and matters I heard of Brancelina, to whose service the fatal destinies enjoined me at my very essence, in that I never affected any other Lady, yet repaying my self unworthy of her grace and favour, so to be seen in this honourable Court. To this he added the discourse of the old woman that appeared unto him in the Palace of Tharsus, and how she blamed him for his idle and slothful life; yet shewing how she assured him to be his son, because farther opinion should passe till that were discovered. But (quoth he) as hitherto I have lived according to the Law of Mahomet, so now would I willingly receive Christian Baptism which I faithfully promised for my good success, when Heaven made me able to deliver this worthy Princess.

When the Emperour heard these things, he presently judged Palmendos to be his son, by the sudden and summary supputation he made of his age, and of the time he was in Palmzeria, where the Queen his mother came so lately acquainted with him: bashfull hereof he was when he looked on the Emperors, as his vermilion colour plainly discovered, yet did he discretely shadow the same: notwithstanding, the Emperesse misdoubted somewhat remembering her dream of the Queen of Tharsus, and what the Emperour himself had told her before; yet made she no view of any such matter, wisely governing her thoughts from outward suspicion, whereupon the Emperour thus began again.

In such my especial good friend Palmendos, I now love and esteem you much better then before, understanding that you are son to the Queen of Tharsus, who did me so great honour in her Countreys; her very name maketh me to remember my travels in those parts: So that I know not how to expresse my joy, bearing your self so well resolved to forsake the Ethnick paganism of your blasphemous Gods, Wherfore I am thus advised, not to pro-
long

long to god an occasion, but to morrow you shall receive the holy character of Christianity, and be likewise affianced to your Lady Francelina: for reason required herein to hasten your right, seeing for her you have endured such dangerous travels, and forsaken a Realm of so great Estate, the riches and fertility whereof I am well acquainted withall.

The King and Queen of Thessaly were not a little glad, when they heard that Palmendos was heir to a Kingdom, but much more was their joy, understanding his Original whereof the Emperour would not as yet make further inquiry, till he were better assured of the certainty: and good occasion falling out so well, as the Emperesse, her Ladies, and every one departing to their Chambers, leaving the Emperour and Palmendos secretly conferring together, of matters concerning the Isle Delphos and such like; but at length his Majesty opened his mind, saying he imagined him to be his son, wherefore he was desirous to be therein resolved.

In respect, my good Lord, (answered Palmendos) that truth must and will come forth at length, know then, mighty Prince and my gracious Father, that in the Realm of Palmeria, you begat me your son, the night before you departed from the Queen my mother; for she being advertised of your rare perfections, became impatient in her amorous affections, and composed the mean of your acquaintance, by a charmed drink provided for that purpose. And here behold the effect of this action, my self your humble son and obedient servant. yet did my mother give me a further testimony hereof, having her self given you the like at her departure: but Francelina had the same now in possession, for to her I gave it after her bestorance: and evermore she concealed this matter from me, till miraculously I was informed both thereof and as concerning Francelina, because she feared I would forsake my country, to come and serve in your Highness Court. As concerning my behaviour since that time, sometimes I am sure hath

happened to your hearing, yet of such small and slender value, as they neither besetmed this place, or your person. The Emperour, ravished with conceit of this report, knew not which way best to signifie his joy, for considering the strange course of the action past, and what the success thereof now proved, his spirits were carried away with wonderful imaginations.

As my noble son Palmendos (quoth he) full well am I assured of what thou hast said, although nature hath shaped thee not much unlike me, and given thee such heroicall courage as I had in my younger days; and albeit the Emperesse may well be offended with me, when she shall be thus thoroughly resolved, yet is her wisdom a modesty such, as she will not mislike what I allow. With these words the Emperour took him by the hand, going with him immediately to the Emperesse Chamber, and after his Majesty had kindly kissed her, he entered into these speeches.

I know well Adam, that heretofore you have held good opinion of my loyalty, and that I ever loved you intirely, as your self could desire no better proof thereof: but the cause why I use those words at this instant, is a little scruple that long since entered my mind, and I fear will offend you when the same is known. At least further doubts should trouble your thoughts, I protest before him who is the onely searcher of hearts, and I swear by all the divine assistants about his tribunal, that never with my will and knowledge did I contaminate our wedlock-bed, much less have I infringed the laws of marriage, or polluted the inviolable faith I solemnly gave you.

Notwithstanding such hath been my former fortune, that another woman besides your self, by charms obtained what was your right, then must you not (Adam) be so severe and rigorous, as not to pardon me, seeing I have voluntarily confessed my offence, be it the fault not proceeding from me, belies my cause to be more innocent.

Remember then Adam, what sometime you told me

concerning the Queen of Tharins, our Dream I perceive was not altogether in vain: in that she had such knowledge of me, by means of an enchanted drink I received unawares, as ingendred Palmendos th's gentle Knight. My Lord (answered the Emperesse) with a smiling countenance at the first time I beheld Palmendos, I was perswaded what you have told me, so lively doth he resemble you in countenance and personage; wherefore I not onely pardon you, being ignorant of begetting such an excellent and perfect creature, but thank Heaven that you were the Father to a son so famous. As for Palmendos, he shall now accept me as his Mother, and I will love him no less then my own son Primaleon; with sundry other speeches were these joyes confirmed, and Palmendos right lovingly embraced by the Emperesse, at length Primaleon came and he being thoroughly acquainted with the matter, took the Prince in his arms, thus speaking.

With the mighty Governour of the Heavens appointed, that the onely flower of Chivalry should be my brother: wherein can I more honour that superexcelling bounty, then confirming my thanks to him by kindnesse to the worthy copartner of my vital blood, drawn from the self-same source where I received my original? Assure your self therefore my most noble brother, that Primaleon is bound to imitate your rare fortunes and treading the self-same steps you have done to eternize the name of our renowned father: continuing in the meantime so ready at your command, as he that honoureth you with most zealous affection. Might I enter the bold acts (answered Palmendos) as to title you by the name of my brother, the second step of my desires were attained, and though I dare not strive to coequal with you in kindnesse, yet will I over-pass you in duty and affection: continuing the servant of Primaleons welfare, while the star of my birth day vouchsafeth me breathing.

Here is occasion offered me of large Discourse concerning the several salutations of the Courtly personages, to

So as this news happened in their ears, both the Lords and Knights came to gratulate this new come son, and the Ladies likewise striving to excel them in courtesies: but it were needless labour, considering the King and Queen of Thessaly concern this present occasion, and with their Daughters joy unite them altogether, preparing for the religious Observations, to be used on the morrow at the Christning of *Palmendos*.

On the morrow the Emperour and all his Barons, mounted on horseback, the like both the Emperess with all her Ladies, and in most honourable manner they ride to this solemnity: so passing in this pomp through the City, they alighted at the Church of *S. Sophy*, where *Palmendos* was religiously baptized, and after ward affianced to *Francelina* by the religious Arch-Bishop, he was attired in as sumptuous ornaments, as when *Andromache* was espoused to the valiant *Hector* of *Troy*, or *Cleopatra* Queen of *Egypt*, when she contended in magnificence with *Mark Anthony* the Triumvirate her husband, drinking one of the Pearls that hung at her ears, esteemed worth two hundred and fifty thousand crowns. For even as the Carbuncle, the most rich and precious of all the oriental Stones, both in the dark give such a clear and illustrious splendor, as not onely illuminateth all the place, but also setteth the regarders eyes to wonder thereat: of no less vertue shined *Francelina* in the Temple, as the onely and perfect Phoenix of her time. In like pomp and royalty they returned to the Palace, there being such a sumptuous feast prepared, as becomed the time of so general rejoicing, where wanted no honourable deviles to accompany the same. And during the time of this their honourable pleasure, here think I good to pause a little, while you consider of the Discourses passed, and I have more leisure to perfect the rest of this History.

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PALMENDOS



